

French swing to left shown in local elections

First computer estimates after the polls closed in the first round of France's municipal elections yesterday appeared to confirm that the left has been making inroads into the Government majority. In Paris M Jacques Chirac, the former Prime Minister, was ahead of his official rival, M Michel D'Ornano.

M Chirac is ahead of official rival in Paris

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 13

The first ballot of the municipal elections, held today, showed a strong advance of the left in the towns they were to early computer predictions. In Paris predictions gave it 40 per cent, compared with 28 per cent for M Jacques Chirac, the former Prime Minister, and 20 per cent for M Michel D'Ornano, the Government's official candidate.

More than 20 towns of more than 30,000 inhabitants have been lost by the Government majority. The turnout of voters was about 70 per cent, compared with 75 per cent in 1975. In most cases, the credit for this progress of the left goes to the Socialist Party. The Communists, however, have done better than expected. They have held their ground, according to its projections, in the towns they already controlled and showed up well where they led the left in the battle against the Government, as well as at Rheims and Evreux, in Normandy, where six years ago the 'Gaulists' were ahead. The predicted fall to the left of 30 per cent in 1977, in the towns they controlled, is a surprise.

Where the Communists and Socialists could not agree, the Socialists obtained the better score. In Marseille, for instance, M Gaston Delella, the Socialist mayor, expected to be leading in seven out of the eight districts of the city.

One of the striking features is the remarkable polling achieved by the ecologicalists in Paris and elsewhere in the country. They will win many seats, but the balance in the second round will be next Sunday.

The success of the left is not purely numerical. It is predicted to gain control of towns like Angers and Dreux which it was never expected to win. Even where the town hall was held by a minister, the left-wing councillor seems to have prevailed, as at St Etienne, where M Durand, the Minister of Finance, faces a difficult run-off next Sunday, with the Communists in the lead.

M Chirac, summing up the first predictions, said that, when the majority was galvanised, it resisted the left's advance. "I see in this the justification of my action on the national plane."

Some non-party voters also seem to have backed the Socialists, in spite of their alliance with the Communists.

Photograph, page 6

A man being arrested after a placard was thrown at the Queen in Sydney's Botanical Gardens yesterday.

Protester's placard 'hits the Queen'

From Roger Berthoud
Sydney, March 13

A protester's cardboard placard saying on one side: "Kerr, the last Governor-General", and on the other "Independence for Australia", was thrown at the Queen as she drove in an open car through Sydney's Botanical Gardens today.

According to one eye-witness, it struck her face and fell to the floor of the car. But Mr Ronald Allison, the Queen's press secretary, said that the placard did not hit the Queen, but simply landed in the car.

A 29-year-old man was arrested and led away in handcuffs. He will appear in court tomorrow morning charged with offensive behaviour. The incident occurred when the Queen was being driven to unveil a plaque naming a path in the gardens Queen Elizabeth Walk. The demonstrators, who

Mr Carter planning to travel in Britain

From Fred Emery
Washington, March 13

President Carter is planning to travel in Britain outside London when he attends the Downing Street summit in May. This is one product of the exceptionally cordial meeting here, from which Mr Callaghan, the British Prime Minister, returned home today.

The British tour is intended as an earnest of the special place a President intends giving to what he has called the "mother country", authoritative Administration sources say. And they add, it is meant to be a gesture to Mr Callaghan personally in return for the praise he lavished while here on Mr Carter and the infant Administration.

One well placed source, who said that the precise itinerary must await further planning, suggested it was Mr Carter's way of "showing what we can do for Mr Callaghan".

The last such gesture was when Dr Kissinger, as Secretary of State, flew to Cardiff to attend the ceremony of bestowing the freedom of the city on Mr Callaghan.

Mr Carter was unlikely to go to Cardiff, one source said, but he might be interested in being seen down on the farm with Mr Callaghan.

The Prime Minister left behind him a spirited defence of socialism in Britain, which was nationally televised today.

Told in an American Broadcasting Company interview that

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Link with life: For 187 hours, Mrs Elena Enache, a 58-year-old teacher, was buried deep in the wreckage of a Bucharest 10-storey building, after the recent earthquake. Her transfer to radio gave her news of the rescue attempts and helped to maintain her will to live. She was still clasping the radio when she was evacuated from the debris and taken to hospital, where the above photograph was taken.

Leyland may drop long-term project and shed 25,000 jobs

By Edward Townsend

Concerted efforts to be made this week to end the British Leyland toolmakers' strike will not avert a full review of the car division's future, with the prospect of tens of thousands fewer jobs in the next year or two and the pruning of the future model programme.

The striking toolroom workers are not due to meet again until Thursday. Even an immediate return to work would leave the company with the almost impossible task of building up to and sustaining full production in little more than one week if it was to meet the Government's deadline and avoid a cut-off in further investment by the National Enterprise Board.

After last week's rejection by the strikers of pleas from Mr Hugh Scamson, president of

the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) for a return to work, immediate Government intervention is being ruled out. However, Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, is said to be ready to intervene.

The strike is costing Leyland Cars between £10m and £15m a week and although the company will announce on Friday that its 1976 profits were about £75m, that is insufficient to sustain a prolonged closure. Eleven of the 18 car assembly lines are halted and 40,000 workers laid off.

The cash flow position of the state-controlled company is reaching a critical point. The end of March deadline imposed by Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, suggests that British Leyland could struggle on until then, but by

mid-April its bankers may at the least be calling for guarantees from the Government.

Once the deadline has been reached the Government will be under intense pressure to intervene and save as many jobs as possible within the car factories and component suppliers' plants. There is also a growing opinion within Leyland that the Government must bring in an independent mediator to attempt to resolve the toolmakers' dispute.

Leyland, however, is certain to tell its main shareholder, the National Enterprise Board, that even with the continued injection of investment capital from public sources it must now concentrate on short-term measures to sustain earnings rather than the long-term Ryder plan.

That could mean the loss of

Improved offer after Benn intervention ends Windscale strike

By John Chartres

The six-week-old strike by nearly 3,000 workers at the Windscale nuclear power plant is due to end this morning. The long and bitter dispute, which closed one of the world's biggest commercial nuclear complexes, was resolved yesterday, 48 hours after the intervention of Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy.

A fresh offer from British Nuclear Fuels of £120 in cash and an increase in the special conditions allowance of 21p an hour, subject to further negotiations, was accepted by a 2-1 vote at a meeting of about 2,500 of the men involved.

The settlement came just in time to prevent a possibly ugly situation later this week, because officials of British Nuclear Fuels had made it clear that essential supplies of nitrogen gas would have to be taken past picket lines by Wednesday to ensure the safety of certain parts of the plant. That might have involved the use of troops or even helicopters.

Last week's decision by the pickets to turn away twice a tanker of nitrogen, needed to maintain fire-prevention stocks, surprised the management, for until then they had cooperated on safety. And Mr William Maxwell, the shop stewards' leader, suggested yesterday that that was the "trump card" that had won the dispute in London, taken Mr Benn to Cumbria and led to his giving instructions

that negotiations should be resumed.

On Mr Benn's visit, BNF officials had maintained that they could not go beyond their offer of 1p an hour on the special conditions allowance without breaching the pay code. It was not clear yesterday whether Mr Benn had told the management that they could go further.

The lump-sum payment of £120 was seen by many of the strikers yesterday as an admission that to some extent they had been "squeezed out" of work through no fault of their own.

The dispute began in January when 32 men who issue protective clothing struck because their conditions allowed only 70p a week, half of that paid to the men to whom they issued the clothing. Workers who could not get their jobs because they could not draw the essential clothing were sent home without pay although, according to the shop stewards, many of them worked on for four hours to ensure that proper close-down procedures were carried out.

The strikers have been particularly bitter at their low wage rate and have alleged that men employed by other contractors and others on staff conditions earn disproportionately more for working under the same hazards. Mr Maxwell said yesterday that the latest offer showed that Windscale was now recognized as "a special site".

A summons from the Duke to all Howards

By Philip Howard

In an act of almost medieval piety the Duke of Norfolk is inviting all the Howards to a service of redemption and rehabilitation for one of their founding fathers of their proud family.

He was Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, the poet, who was executed on Tower Hill at about the age of 30 in 1547 on trumped up charges of high treason.

His beheaded remains were eventually reburied in the parish church of Framlingham, the old and pretty little town in Suffolk, and a grand memorial was erected over them by his second son.

It consists of magnificent recumbent effigies of Henry Howard, the poet earl, and his countess; kneeling figures of their two sons and three daughters; an abundance of heraldry and trophies; and a Latin inscription. The earl's body was found directly beneath his effigy when the tomb was opened in 1835.

The pasting centuries gradually disintegrated the tomb. The Duke of Norfolk, who is also Baron Howard of Glossop, has now restored it and the other Howard tombs in Framlingham church. He is inviting all Howards to an ecclesiastical service to retell the tomb on July 9.

In a roll-call of feudal grandeur, which sounds like lines from one of Shakespeare's historical plays, the Earls of Carlisle, Devon, Dorset, and Berks; the Viscounts of Devon and Devon, and Barons Howard of Penrhyn and Strathcona have been summoned, along with the heads of other branches of the ramified family.

Other Howards who wish to attend should take note of this, the only intimation, and write for tickets to the Rector of Framlingham, the Rev David Pitcher. A large attendance of Howards is expected, and those without tickets may not find room in the church.

Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, was a wild, ambitious and highly talented young man who fell in the sabbat-toothed power struggle for the succession when Henry VIII was dying.

The nearly married Henry's daughter Mary. And his fiery temper earned him the title of "the most foolish proud boy that is in England". He was condemned and executed on frivolous charges of treasonably quarrelling the

Continued on page 5, col 3

Move to ease law on cannabis is expected

By Stewart Tandler
Home Affairs Reporter

Liberalization of the law on possession of small amounts of cannabis may be an outcome of the Home Office attempts to clear up confusion and uncertainty over cannabis in the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Indications of changes to come may be announced in the House of Lords this week during the debate on the Criminal Law Bill. Discussions among ministers and their advisers are at a preliminary stage, but some of the options before them would mean downgrading the offence of possession and removing prison sentences for summary conviction for that offence.

Such changes would take Britain some way towards the road being followed in the United States and some European countries, but there is bound to be opposition and considerable debate within the Home Office before any conclusions are reached.

The need for re-examination has been created by events in the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords. In January the Court of Appeal ruled that possession of the leaf and stalk of the cannabis plant was not illegal, although they contain the active ingredients of cannabis.

Since those parts of the plant include the ingredient, the police were still left with the possibility of prosecuting for possession of a cannabis derivative, which carries stiffer penalties.

That is to be tested by the Court of Appeal later this month. Whatever the court and a possible appeal to the Lords produce, the Home Office is faced with changing the Act.

If possession of the leaf and stalk remains legal, then the Act will have to be changed, if the derivative prosecutory stands, the Act will still have to be changed because the leaf and stalk are less potent than the flowering top of the plant, prohibited in the Act, but their

possession would bring greater penalties.

While awaiting the outcome of that conundrum the Home Office finds itself with difficulties over a change in penalties proposed in the Criminal Law Bill.

The Government has proposed that instead of the maximum penalties of six months' imprisonment or a £400 fine, or both, on conviction for possession of cannabis before a magistrates' court, future penalties should be three months, or £500, or both.

In February Lord Gifford, supported by other peers, proposed an amendment that there should be only a fine. The Government is faced with changes in penalties relating to cannabis without knowing exactly what cannabis is and is not for the purposes of the law. It may decide to compromise in the Lords, wait for the law to sort itself out and make changes in the Commons.

At present the Misuse of Drugs Act classifies controlled

drugs under three sections, A, B and C. Drugs in class A draw the heaviest penalties, those in class B less severe penalties, and those in class C less severe still. Cannabis and cannabis resin are in class B, but the Home Office might have difficulty classifying leaves and stalks.

Lord Gifford's amendment would make possession of cannabis and cannabis resin free of prison sentences for a summary conviction in class B, while drugs in class C would still draw prison sentences. Class C might include the leaves and stalk.

A working party of the Standing Advisory Council on Drug Addiction has tentatively suggested downgrading cannabis to class C and freeing a first offender of any penalty of imprisonment for possession. Another working party on legal and administrative matters has expressed concern over that proposed relaxation of the law.

Drug addicts' centre, page 4

Tate and Lyle Limited

In our issue of January 27, 1977, we published an article by Maurice Corina concerning the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General on the arrangements for the supply of cane sugar in 1975, in which we suggested that the Comptroller and Auditor-General had made grave criticisms of Tate & Lyle.

On a closer reading of the report we now recognize that our interpretation of it was unwarranted, and we accept that there was no indication in the report that the conduct of Tate & Lyle throughout was anything other than correct; and that when accidental errors were made in calculating the costs and profit properly attributable, Tate &

Lyle took the initiative in notifying the Government and fully cooperated in correcting them. There was no "double bookkeeping". We are now informed by Tate & Lyle that at no time did it receive from the Government under the Price Equalization Scheme payments in excess of the amount due.

We also accept that a suggestion made in the article that there was a connexion between these matters and the Government's decision not to refer to the Monopolies Commission Tate & Lyle's bid for Manbré and Garton was incorrect. We express our sincere apologies to Tate & Lyle for the unjustifiable aspersions contained in the article.

Policeman dies in Ulster car ambush

A policeman in the Royal Ulster Constabulary was shot dead last night when a police car was ambushed near Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh. The Provisional IRA were believed to have been responsible. Police Constable William David Brown, aged 18, was the hundredth member of the RUC to be killed during the present emergency. He was also the youngest and joined the force in June last year. Another constable in the car was hit in the arm and a policewoman was hurt when the vehicle crashed.

Media clash, page 2

Devolution pessimism

Labour pessimism over the fate of the devolution Bill remains profound after the conference of the party in Scotland. Ministers expect to go into the May local elections unable to do more than repeat the party's commitment to devolution.

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Rome takes tough line

All public demonstrations in Rome have been banned until further notice. The decision comes after a weekend of violence in the capital and in other Italian cities including Bologna and Turin. Fourteen policemen were injured in clashes with students.

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Charter 77 man dies

Professor Jan Patocka, a leading member of Charter 77, the Czechoslovak civil rights movement, has died in Prague after suffering a cerebral haemorrhage. Professor Patocka was admitted to hospital shortly after being questioned by police for 11 hours.

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Australia take hold of centenary Test

Australia have taken a hold on the centenary Test match in Melbourne. They dismissed England for 95 in the first innings and have scored 104 for three in their second innings, giving them a lead of 147 runs. Colin Cowdrey, page 10

Uganda threat

Uganda has ordered a close watch to be kept on Britons and Americans because they have been sending out "false information". The threat was made after reports that one of President Amin's pilots was seeking asylum in Britain.

Exams plan revived

The Schools Council is reviving its proposal to replace the A level examination with a system of N (normal) and F (further) levels in the sixth form.

Three British golds

Britain won three golds and two silver medals in the European indoor athletics championships. In winning the women's 800 metres, Katrina Jane Colebrook equalled the world record.

Move against BBC

A Glasgow solicitor is to seek a court order today to prevent the BBC showing a film in which youths produced hatchets and a sword.

Pakistan: Strikes and protests

alleged rigging of election to go ahead in spite of offer of meeting from Mr Bhutto.

Florida: Four-page Special Report

Home News 2-5
European News 7-9
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Treasury sees scope for £1,000m tax cuts

The latest Treasury forecast of the economy confirms that the Chancellor could cut taxes by £1,000m in the Budget without breaching the limits on public sector borrowing set by the IMF loan agreement. The forecast also expects inflation to be lower than appeared likely last December.

Features, pages 16 and 20
Louis Heren says profits and the Union Jack are flying high in Hong Kong. Philip Howard on the centenary of St John Ambulance; a profile of Michael Foot by David Leigh.

Letter 17
On army violence in Northern Ireland, from Mr N. D. Ross; the future of Montmore, from Lord Eccles.

Leading articles: The Labour Party in Scotland; Producing doctors.

Arts, page 19
Michael Ratcliffe on The Ambassadors (BBC); William Mann on Tumburline (Radio 3); Sir William Haley on Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's Essays and Poems; John Higgins on Kent Opera's Cost Jan suite; Irving Wardle on A Marriage at Leatherhead.

Obituary, page 18
Professor Jan Patocka; Mr Leonard Barnes Sport, pages 10-12
Rugby Union: Favourites eliminated from John Player Cup; Football: Injuries to Doyle and Gerry Francis worry England; Racing.

Business News, pages 21-28
Financial Editor: Politics, speculators, and the commodity market; diesels, fashionable engineering; Incheape.
Rugby Stephenson: The dangers in a price freeze.

Business management: Case study of a dismissal; The "most profitable" American airline.
Business feature: Clifford Webb on the tensions that led to the 11-week strike at Massey-Ferguson, which has just ended.

By popular demand, the Hele-Hele Bago Quiere comes back to the Hilton.



20 beautiful Philippine girls exotically dancing the Jota de Paragua, the Hele-Hele Bago Quiere and the Bamboo Dance (among others) are likely to be a popular event.

So popular were they last time they appeared at the Hilton that we've asked them to come back again. If you'd like to watch them, for the first or second time, ring 01-493 8000 now to reserve your dinner table.

Fiesta Filipina Dance Company,
at the London Hilton Roof Restaurant,
8th March-2nd April.

HOME NEWS

Protest by MP over Korean car imports

Mr Eric Hoyle, Labour MP for Nelson and Colne, is to protest in the Commons that a car made in Korea with British help may soon make a "massive" incursion into the British market at the expense of the Pony car, which is expected to sell in Europe from about £2,000, is made by the Hyundai company in Korea. Mr Hoyle said: "Not only did the expertise of former Leyland employees help to start this company but, even more ironic, Leyland did the tooling for it."

"Because of that, which I regard as a scandal in itself, there was no capacity for the tooling of the new Mini. So the contract went to Ford, who were producing a rival to the Mini."

Mr Hoyle said the influx of the Pony into Britain would be the greatest demonstration of "uninfiltrated" wounds our home motor industry has yet indulged in.

Mr Hoyle says that British engineers are testing the Pony, which is on display at the Geneva motor show this week, to give it the "go-ahead" to be sold in this country. At a time when British Leyland were in difficulties the new Korean company was entering as a serious competitor.

British Leyland said yesterday that it had done tooling work for Hyundai but it would not affect the new Mini. The tooling work being done by Ford for Leyland was for a luxury car, not the new Mini.

Hyundai's sales abroad are expected to be about 10,000 cars a year. No date has been set for the Pony's introduction to Britain.

Glued cars "safe": British Leyland replied yesterday to criticism of the company after it was disclosed that some new Princess and Allegro cars had parts glued together. Faults appeared in the suspension linkage in a "few models" in January and the company was unable to get new parts because of a dispute at the Cowley factory.

Distributors were advised to use glue as a temporary repair measure, the company said. The glue was widely used and there was "no safety implication at all".

The Cowley dispute was now over and the parts would be fitted under warranty.

Bronze Age purchase

The British Museum has paid £300 for 90 Bronze Age weapons found off Dover harbour and believed to be from the earliest known shipwreck in British waters, about 3,000 years old.

Man in the news: Mr Richard Francis Standing up to the BBC's critics

From Christopher Walker, Belfast

Behind the presenters whose faces are familiar to the viewing public, the man at the heart of the new controversy over BBC coverage of events in Northern Ireland is Mr Richard Francis.

An affable Yorkshireman, whose relaxed manner belies the daily pressures of his job, he has been regional controller since September, 1973, and at the age of 43 is tipped in some circles as a potential future director-general.

Mr Airey Neave, Conservative spokesman on Northern Ireland, has joined the growing list of critics who have raised the wider question of the corporation's role during a terrorist campaign in the wake of the *Tonight* programme's allegations against Belfast detectives.

In addition, the local television current affairs programme, *Spotlight*, is being "blackened" by technicians after an interview with an unnamed member of a fringe republican group, the Irish National Liberation Army.

As well as overseeing the output of BBC Northern Ireland, Mr Francis is personally responsible for every BBC programme relating to the province. All plays



Mr Richard Francis: "Truth is indivisible."

about Ulster have to be seen in advance and all documentary producers from London have to seek Mr Francis's sanction before advancing on particular projects.

Among BBC staff he is noted and respected for the frequency with which he has stood up to government pressure and to the continual barrage of self-interested criticism from local politicians on either side of the religious divide.

Media heading for new clash on Ulster

From a Staff Reporter, Belfast

After a space of serious allegations against members of the security forces, a fresh confrontation is looming between the British media and the Government and Opposition over coverage of the continuing violence in Northern Ireland.

The battle lines were first drawn up at a dinner in a Belfast hotel last November, when the Secretary of State, Mr Mason, launched an angry personal attack against senior BBC executives for aspects of their editorial policy.

Since then a number of incidents have increased the friction. The most notable were the broadcast on the *Tonight* programme of detailed brutality allegations against the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the publication yesterday in *The Sunday Times* of an article saying that the Army in Ulster indulged in a range of "dirty tricks" between 1972 and early 1975.

Mr Mason has requested his officials to telephone journalists with a strongly worded condemnation of the BBC for its handling of the *Tonight* programme. That move was fol-

lowed on Saturday by Mr Airey Neave's speech accusing the corporation of undermining the propaganda war in Ulster.

A senior civil servant is understood to have telephoned the BBC to try to convince executives that one of the subjects in the *Tonight* interviews was a prominent Provisional IRA organizer. It has also been suggested to local journalists that D notices might be used to restrict certain reports considered as helpful to terrorists.

The only official Army comment came in a statement from Lisburn. It said: "It is a hotchpotch of old allegations almost all of which have appeared over the years in other Irish and British newspapers. We do not propose to react to them in any detail, now or in the future."

The *Sunday Times* said that between 1972 and last year the Army's campaign against the IRA had led to involvement in a number of "bizarre activities". It emphasized that none covered the period since Mr Mason took over at Stormont last September.

According to the paper's unnamed sources the Army had, among other things, attempted to discredit two Ulster poli-

ticians and influence government policy by issuing false information. It also suggested that troops had set off explosions in border areas to create confusion about IRA activity and planted ammunition on suspects during questioning.

One reason for the increased sensitivity of the Government to allegations against the security forces is the recent hearing of the case between Ireland and Britain before the European Court of Human Rights.

That demonstrated the damage to Britain's international reputation that can arise from the behaviour of soldiers and policemen in Ulster, and ministers are keenly aware that another session is due to open in Strasbourg next month.

Although Mr Mason has been critical of certain aspects of the media's treatment of Northern Ireland news, he has said in an open letter to the local branch of the National Union of Journalists that he is not in favour of censorship.

A fuller indication of his view is likely to emerge in an hour-long interview to be broadcast on ITV's *People and Politics* programme tonight.

Letters, page 17

Propaganda war being lost, Tory MP says

By Our Political Reporter

The controversy over the BBC's coverage of Ulster developed at the weekend when Mr Airey Neave, Conservative spokesman on Northern Ireland, accused the corporation of forgetting its responsibilities in the fight against terrorism.

Mr Neave's comments add to criticisms made by Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and will intensify comments that are being made at Westminster.

Speaking in his Abingdon constituency on Saturday, Mr Neave said: "We are losing the propaganda war in Northern Ireland. The security forces may make arrests, but skillful propaganda is as lethal as a gun or a bomb. A review of present attitudes to media freedom is therefore needed to take account of a desperate emergency."

He then commented: "Some of the media deny that we are really 'at war' with terrorism. Some off their actions actually stimulate the hardcore terrorist movement. The BBC in particular pronounces on the security situation in Northern Ireland with studied grandiloquence and ignores the true dangers."

Mr Neave referred to a lecture by Mr Richard Francis, BBC controller in Northern Ireland, who spoke of the duty of the media of "impartially reflecting significant forces in society, of whatever origin, as much as supporting democratic values."

This, Mr Neave said, purported to be a guideline for a broadcasting authority in a part of the United Kingdom on the brink of civil war where the Government was fighting a ruthless group of terrorists.

On March 2 the BBC *Tonight* programme interviewed two men who alleged brutality by the Royal Ulster Constabulary during interrogation after which no charges were made against them.

Mr Neave added: "This *Tonight* programme inter-viewed two men who alleged brutality by the Royal Ulster Constabulary during interrogation after which no charges were made against them."

Meanwhile, homelessness has reached its highest level, although official statistics obscure the fact that tens of thousands of homeless people are not known.

Rising homelessness cannot be attributed to high level of new arrivals in London, the report says. Department of Environment statistics show that 95 per cent of homeless families accepted by the London

'MPs only' proposal for Europe elections

By Michael Hatfield, Political Reporter

The Government's tentative proposals for direct elections to the European Parliament have reached an advanced stage and it is expected that further Cabinet discussions on the planned consultative White Paper will be held shortly.

While the White Paper will contain a number of options, which will be discussed in Parliament before a final Cabinet decision is taken, it would appear that a system of proportional representation is not a strong runner.

Although proposals for PR are expected to be discussed, many ministers do not like the idea, not least because it would create a furor in some sections of the party. It has become clear that heavy concentration has been given in the White Paper on averting another battle in the party over the European issue.

One proposal being canvassed at Cabinet level is a "dual mandate" system, in which only MPs would be able to stand in the European Parliament elections. One great

attraction of the idea is that it would remove at least in part the anti-EEC argument that the Parliament will progressively lose its sovereignty. Members of Parliament elected to the European Parliament would retain their direct links with Westminster.

The proposition, it is believed, has found some degree of favour among prominent anti-EEC Cabinet ministers such as Mr Foot, Leader of the Commons, Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

To avoid a bewildering surfeit of elections, for local councils, Scottish and Welsh assemblies, Westminster and the European Parliament, it is suggested that under the "dual mandate" system, the European elections could be held at the same time as those for Westminster.

But the European Parliament has a fixed five-year term, whereas the Westminster elections can be held at any time during a five-year period. There are, of course, other objections, including opposition to MPs holding two parliamentary jobs.

Housing cuts 'are leading to disaster in London'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

London is heading for a housing disaster unless present policies are changed, the Shelter Housing Aid Centre says in a report today. It suggests that public expenditure cuts are threatening with collapse housing programmes intended to tackle the accommodation crisis in London, where housing need has never been higher.

The report points out that the fall in the population of London has slowed a significantly in the past two years that the decline can no longer be relied on to provide an automatic solution to the capital's housing needs.

Meanwhile, homelessness has reached its highest level, although official statistics obscure the fact that tens of thousands of homeless people are not known.

Rising homelessness cannot be attributed to high level of new arrivals in London, the report says. Department of Environment statistics show that 95 per cent of homeless families accepted by the London

boroughs were living in London previously.

Meanwhile, council waiting lists have become overstretched, reaching a total of 213,000 by December, 1976.

The report rules out private renting as an answer to the needs of the homeless and badly housed, because the long established policy of the sector has been caused by the poor economic return for landlords over the years.

The remaining options are all seriously affected by public expenditure cuts, the report says. Private house building in London has fallen sharply, and both public and private rehabilitation and improvement programmes are threatened by expenditure cuts.

Council house building is about to slump, the rate of acquisition has slowed to a halt, and the area is about to fall on new town programmes that are only just beginning to provide an effective channel for Londoners needing homes.

Housing in London—the Continuing Crisis by Christine Hammond (SHEA), 195 Old Brompton Road, London, SW5 0AR, £1 plus 15p postage.

Bakers appeal to minister in dispute on price rises

By Hugh Clayton

Bakers have asked Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, to rule in their favour in a dispute about price rises with the price commission. When the Government first said that a rise on bread bakers' increase was cut while shopkeepers were enabled to make more profit.

Bread companies want cuts in profits caused by their increasing discounts to grocers to be classed as allowable costs in applications for price rises. The commission has rejected that claim on the ground that it would make some shopkeepers pay more for bread because others were paying less.

The commission's ruling on the last increase meant that companies were prevented from charging an extra 3p for a small loaf when they raised the price of a large one by 1p.

Officials at Mr Hattersley's department confirmed that with the price ceiling raised while discount bands were not changed the shop profit margin was allowed to rise. The discount bands contain the price cuts shops have to make when they win large discounts from bakers.

Under the previous price tariff, the department said, a grocer who bought loaves at a discount of 22 per cent would have to cut the price of a large loaf by 1p from the Government ceiling of 21p. That would give him a net profit of 3.725 per cent.

The new ceiling is 22p but the cut required in shops at each discount band is unchanged. Thus a grocer at 22 per cent discount still has to cut by only 1p. That, the department explained, would now show him a net margin of 3.95 per cent.

Firm action urged to deter young smokers

By Our Science Editor

Legislation aimed at reducing smoking fails to tackle the most important obstacle preventing smoking by children and young people under the age of 21. That is regarded as the most serious deficiency in a World Health Organization survey of legislation around the world.

In fact, only 30 countries have taken any formal action, and the measures they have introduced embrace few provisions that could be expected to succeed.

That rather gloomy picture is unaltered by the tighter advertising controls on certain categories of high-tar cigarettes (29mg of tar and other proposals, made by Mr Ennals, the Social Services Secretary, last week.

Legislative Action to Combat Smoking Around the World (World Health Organization).

Move to form one union for top civil servants

By Tim Jones, Labour Reporter

One powerful union to represent the views of top civil servants may emerge as a result of discussions that are to take place between the Institution of Professional Civil Servants and the Association of First Division Civil Servants (FDCS).

Mr William McCall, general secretary of the 100,000-strong institution, believes there are no insuperable differences. His proposals would ensure that if there was an amalgamation, the FDCS and the Association of Civil Servants (ACS), to which it is closely linked, would have executive authority over their own affairs.

Mr McCall suggests that during a transitional period, which could be three years, the FDCS and the ACS would have reserved seats on the amalgamated union's national executive.

At its last conference the FDCS reaffirmed the willingness of its 10,000 members to develop closer links with other associations but made it clear that an essential precondition of any discussions was the retention of a "separate and distinct" voice by the top grades it represents.

A possible stumbling block could be the while the institution is affiliated to the TUC, the FDCS is not, although there is a growing mood in favour of such a move.

NHS 'failing to maintain hospitals' fabric'

By a Staff Reporter

The National Health Service is failing to renew its buildings adequately, according to its works officers, who maintain the fabric of Britain's hospitals.

In their submission to the Royal Commission on the NHS they say that £210m is needed to replace equipment operating well past its estimated lifetime. The figure is much higher for buildings, as considerably more than half the country's hospitals were built before 1914.

Last year the works section of the NHS had a budget of £580m and a staff of more than 28,000.

The NHS must not "burn the floorboards to keep the house centrally heated", they say. "The efficiency of the clinical functions in the service depends increasingly on the existence and smooth operation of its buildings and complex service."

Attempt to stop BBC showing film on violence

From Martin Huckerby, Glasgow

An attempt to stop the showing of a film about violence in east Glasgow on BBC television's *Nations* programme of two youths who appear in the film waving weapons.

The youths regret producing arms for the gratification of television viewers, Mr Kevin Breslin, their solicitor, said.

He intends to go to court in Glasgow today to seek an interim interdict against the film. That move will be strongly opposed by the BBC, which paid eight youths a total of £5 after the filming.

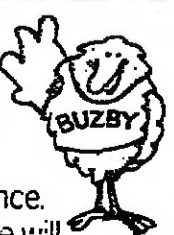
Keyphone. The press-button age.



Press-button efficiency has spread right through the business world. Calculators, teleprinters and computers all have made business life quicker and more efficient. Now, the Keyphone brings press-button efficiency to the telephone by letting you key the numbers you are calling swiftly and easily.

Key the number into the Keyphone and it will do the rest. In fact, the more your business uses the telephone, the more you'll appreciate the Keyphone's convenience. The local Telephone Sales Office will be pleased to supply details.

Post Office Telecommunications



Chief constable cleared after inquiry

From Our Correspondent, Nottingham

An inquiry has cleared Mr Charles McLachlan, Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, and several of his senior officers of allegations of conspiracy, inefficiency and breach of discipline. The inquiry was carried out by Mr Stanley Barrett, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire.

He says in a report to Nottinghamshire Police Authority that he has found no evidence to support allegations, made last December by a man from Nottingham, Leicestershire, that there was a "conspiracy" between certain police officers.

The man also made allegations against Nottinghamshire's deputy chief constable and assistant chief constable, a police superintendent, an inspector and a councillor. Frank Warsop, chairman of the county police authority. They were all cleared by the inquiry. Councillor Warsop said of the report: "Any person who makes a complaint against the police has the right to have it considered."

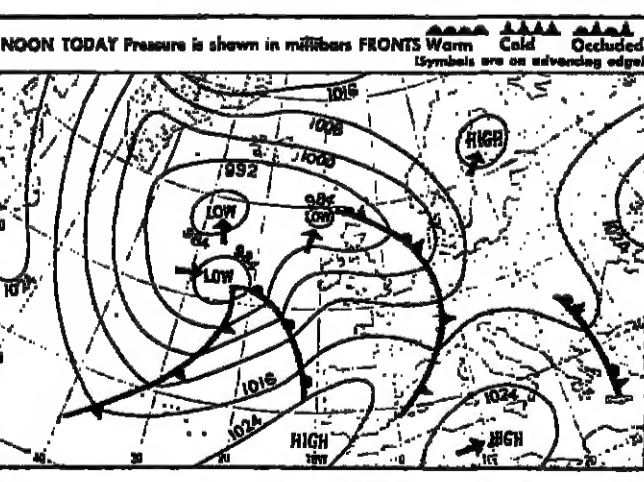
First meeting of political honours group

By Our Political Staff

An informal meeting of the new members of the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee, appointed by Mr Callaghan when he became Prime Minister, is to be held next month.

The members are Lord Shackleton, a Labour life peer, Lord Carr of Hadley, former Cabinet minister, and Lord Franks, former British Ambassador in Washington.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 5.17 am. Sun sets: 6.1 am.
Moon rises: 12.25 pm.
New Moon: March 19.
Lighting up: 6.33 pm to 5.43 am.
High water: London Bridge, 8.32 am, 6.1m (20.1ft); 9.5 pm, 6.0m (19.8ft). Avonmouth, 1.31 am, 1.1m (3.6ft); 2.20 pm, 10.0m (32.8ft). Dover, 6.1 am, 5.5m (18.2ft); 6.47 pm, 5.5m (18.0ft).
Hull, 12.43 am, 5.0m (16.4ft); 1.17 pm, 5.9m (19.3ft). Liverpool, 6.5 am, 7.7m (25.2ft); 6.36 pm, 7.5m (24.7ft).

A showery W airstream will cover most districts while a trough moves slowly N across Scotland.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, East Anglia, Midlands, S. SE, N. NE and NW England, Lake District, N Wales, N Ireland, Isle of Man, Channel Islands: Sunny intervals and heavy showers, possibly hail and thunder; wind W, fresh or strong; max temp 11°C (52°F).

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.
Aberdeen: 17, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0, -1, -2, -3, -4, -5, -6, -7, -8, -9, -10, -11, -12, -13, -14, -15, -16, -17, -18, -19, -20, -21, -22, -23, -24, -25, -26, -27, -28, -29, -30, -31, -32, -33, -34, -35, -36, -37, -38, -39, -40, -41, -42, -43, -44, -45, -46, -47, -48, -49, -50, -51, -52, -53, -54, -55, -56, -57, -58, -59, -60, -61, -62, -63, -64, -65, -66, -67, -68, -69, -70, -71, -72, -73, -74, -75, -76, -77, -78, -79, -80, -81, -82, -83, -84, -85, -86, -87, -88, -89, -90, -91, -92, -93, -94, -95, -96, -97, -98, -99, -100, -101, -102, -103, -104, -105, -106, -107, -108, -109, -110, -111, -112, -113, -114, -115, -116, -117, -118, -119, -120, -121, -122, -123, -124, -125, -126, -127, -128, -129, -130, -131, -132, -133, -134, -135, -136, -137, -138, -139, -140, -141, -142, -143, -144, -145, -146, -147, -148, -149, -150, -151, -152, -153, -154, -155, -156, -157, -158, -159, -160, -161, -162, -163, -164, -165, -166, -167, -168, -169, -170, -171, -172, -173, -174, -175, -176, -177, -178, -179, -180, -181, -182, -183, -184, -185, -186, -187, -188, -189, -190, -191, -192, -193, -194, -195, -196, -197, -198, -199, -200, -201, -202, -203, -204, -205, -206, -207, -208, -209, -210, -211, -212, -213, -214, -215, -216, -217, -218, -219, -220, -221, -222, -223, -224, -225, -226, -227, -228, -229, -230, -231, -232, -233, -234, -235, -236, -237, -238, -239, -240, -241, -242, -243, -244, -245, -246, -247, -248, -249, -250, -251, -252, -253, -254, -255, -256, -257, -258, -259, -260, -261, -262, -263, -264, -265, -266, -267, -268, -269, -270, -271, -272, -273, -274, -275, -276, -277, -278, -279, -280, -281, -282, -283, -284, -285, -286, -287, -288, -289, -290, -291, -292, -293, -294, -295, -296, -297, -298, -299, -300, -301, -302, -303, -304, -305, -306, -307, -308, -309, -310, -311, -312, -313, -314, -315, -316, -317, -318, -319, -320, -321, -322, -323, -324, -325, -326, -327, -328, -329, -330, -331, -332, -333, -334, -335, -336, -337, -338, -339, -340, -341, -342, -343, -344, -345, -346, -347, -348, -349, -350, -351, -352, -353, -354, -355, -356, -357, -358, -359, -360, -361, -362, -363, -364, -365, -366, -367, -368, -369, -370, -371, -372, -373, -374, -375, -376, -377, -378, -379, -380, -381, -382, -383, -384, -385, -386, -387, -388, -389, -390, -391, -392, -393, -394, -395, -396, -397, -398, -399, -400, -401, -402, -403, -404, -405, -406, -407, -408, -409, -410, -411, -412, -413, -414, -415, -416, -417, -418, -419, -420, -421, -422, -423, -424, -425, -426, -427, -428, -429, -430, -431, -432, -433, -434, -435, -436, -437, -438, -439, -440, -441, -442, -443, -444, -445, -446, -447, -448, -449, -450, -451, -452, -453, -454, -455, -456, -457, -458, -459, -460, -461, -462, -463, -464, -465, -466, -467, -468, -469, -470, -471, -472, -473, -474, -475, -476, -477, -478, -479, -480, -481, -482, -483, -484, -485, -486, -487, -488, -489, -490, -491, -492, -493, -494, -495, -496, -497, -498, -499, -500, -501, -502, -503, -504, -505, -506, -507, -508, -509, -510, -511, -512, -513, -514, -515, -516, -517, -518, -519, -520, -521, -522, -523, -524, -525, -526, -527, -528, -529, -530, -531, -532, -533, -534, -535, -536, -537, -538, -539, -540, -541, -542, -543, -544, -545, -546, -547, -548, -549, -550, -551, -552, -553, -554, -555, -556, -557, -558, -559, -560, -561, -562, -563, -564, -565, -566, -567, -568, -569, -570, -571, -572, -573, -574, -575, -576, -577, -578, -579, -580, -581, -582, -583, -584, -585, -586, -587, -588, -589, -590, -591, -592, -593, -594, -595, -596, -597, -598, -599, -600, -601, -602, -603, -604, -605, -606, -607, -608, -609, -610, -611, -612, -613, -614, -615, -616, -617, -618, -619, -620, -621, -622, -623, -624, -625, -626, -627, -628, -629, -630, -631, -632, -633, -634, -635, -636, -637, -638, -639, -640, -641, -642, -643, -644, -645, -646, -647, -648, -649, -650, -651, -652, -653, -654, -655, -656, -657, -658, -659, -660, -661, -662, -663, -664, -6

HOME NEWS

Scottish conference fails to ease Labour Party pessimism over fate of the devolution Bill

From David Leigh
Political Staff
Perth

Labour pessimism about the fate of the devolution Bill has not lessened after the relatively quiet way in which the situation was accepted at the party's Scottish conference, which ended in Perth yesterday.

Ministers and MPs are privately reconciled to the probability that they will have to go into the Scottish local elections in May and the next general election with nothing to offer except a repeated commitment.

Both Mr Foot, Leader of the Commons, and Mr Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, referred to the Bill as if it were only in a coma and not dead. "We have not abandoned the Bill," Mr Millan said on Saturday. But he admitted that it would be hard to get it on to the statute book.

Mr William Ross, MP for Kilmarlock, former Scottish Secretary and formerly an opponent of devolution, argued strongly for loyalty at the conference. One senior English minister maintains that Scottish nationalism will simply fade away.

The Government still has at least three options to try to get the Bill through. None of them is regarded as promising. It could continue debate on the Bill even without the guillotine which was rejected recently, either by extending the present session or carrying the Bill over to the next one. But hundreds of amendments have been tabled and the Bill's opponents are determined. Even if the House agreed, it would still take an extremely long time. MPs might not attend in sufficient numbers for any progress to be made. The Government could accept the Scottish conference's

demand for an immediate referendum. But ministers are not enthusiastic. Mr Millan said: "We see considerable difficulties about that."

There would be confusion about framing the questions and no guarantee that the Commons would assent, ministers say.

If there was a question about separatism to deter the Scottish National Party, the English would want a voice. If the referendum was confined to devolution as such, some Scottish MPs have said they are not enthusiastic enough to campaign for it.

The third possibility is for the Government to gain cross-party support for a guillotine, which is the official purpose behind secret talks. One claimant this week with Tory and Labour MPs.

Labour members would have to be persuaded to drop their objections. Mr Foot appealed to them on Friday to reconsider, and it may be possible to offer northern MPs some body as a political counterweight to the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies, which have caused alarm.

Liberals might be won over by an offer of tax powers, such as an assigned share of oil revenues, but that would irritate Labour opponents of devolution.

If those ideas come to nothing, the Government must find new legislation to fill up the present session. One likely candidate is a Bill to introduce industrial democracy into the Post Office.

That would leave the debris of devolution to be cleared up. Civil servants at the Cabinet Office, however, are already returning to their own departments.

A decision will have to be made whether to continue work

on the assembly buildings in Cardiff and Edinburgh.

Mr John Smith, Minister of State responsible for devolution, will have to be moved if the Bill is dropped. Many had predicted a rapid rise to Cabinet rank for him.

Mr James Sillars, MP for Ayrshire, South, on the other hand, who broke away from the Labour Party with Mr John Robertson, MP for Paisley, to found the rebel Scottish Labour Party, faces the political wilderness.

His whole strategy depended on an assembly being set up at Edinburgh. Now, cut off from his former comrades and with no political base in view for his small party, he faces possible defeat in his constituency at the hands of the SNP and official Labour.

Similarly, Mr John Mackintosh, MP for Berwick and East Lothian, looked forward to the assembly and has burnt his boats at Westminster.

Not only did he help to destroy the dock work Bill last year by refusing to support the Government, but he has also taken a job as professor of politics at Edinburgh. The SNP is likely to take his seat at the next election.

Some Scottish Conservatives are also likely to be in difficulty. Mr Allick Buchanan-Smith, MP for Angus, North and Mearns, and Mr Malcolm Rifkind, MP for Edinburgh, Pentlands, were forced to resign from the Tory front bench because they would not vote against the principle of an assembly, although they did oppose the guillotine.

Their position on second reading is unlikely to be remembered at the next election. There is speculation at Westminster, however, that Mr Buchanan-Smith may return to the shadow Cabinet with the agriculture portfolio.

Tories urged to court the working class vote

By Our Political Reporter

The difficulty facing the Conservative Party in broadening its base and attacking a larger percentage of the working-class vote to win the next general election is pinpointed today in a survey published by *Crossroads*, the Bow Group magazine.

An American sociologist who spent six months surveying nine marginal British constituencies found that nearly nine out of 10 party activists were in the upper middle class. Mr Donald Hoffman, assistant professor of sociology at Cedar Crest College, Pennsylvania, says his calculations are based on occupational class.

And, he says, if one adds the fact that 84 per cent of the activists own their homes, while only 2 per cent live in council housing, the middle-class image is further reinforced.

Mr Hoffman argues that while the characterization of an overwhelmingly middle-class image may be dismissed as of little importance in safe Conservative seats, "in marginal constituencies this condition of being 'half asleep' in relation to manual workers may be the deciding factor resulting in the defeat of Conservative candidates."

Individual Conservative associations should plan ways of drawing increasing numbers of the working class into local party activities and support roles. "If the Conservative Party is to be seen as a party of all the people, then the associations, which represent the point where this party is closest to the people, must exemplify in their own organizational life the full social mix of the constituency as a whole."

Conservatives could attract additional working-class support in areas where private and council tenants are concentrated. Working-class people who became home owners often switched loyalties and affiliations, such as a traditional support of the Labour Party.

"Which may still appear to link them to a level of life and status out of which they have just moved."

If home-owning working-class people were likely to vote Conservative, it would make sense for Conservative associations to make sure that the rest, a majority, of the working-class population got the biggest share of the party's recruiting attention.

But Mr Hoffman says that among party leaders in metropolitan constituencies, he often noted a hesitancy about entering council estates.

Crossroads (Bow Group Publications Ltd, 240 High Holborn, London, 45p).



Sponsored "climb": members of the British section of ORT, the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training, who were attempting to climb the Duke of York

Saving energy by insulation

Between 5 and 10 per cent of domestic energy consumption can be saved nationally by the use of available techniques in dwellings where they have not yet been applied.

The capital cost of insulating a new, three-bedroom semi-detached house to present building regulation standards is about £50. The saving in energy consumption achieved in comparison with the previous standard is estimated at about 15 per cent. To install 50mm of loft insulation in a similar dwelling would also cost about £50 and could result in savings of up to 15 per cent.

Environment, Feb 28
Costs of schoolchildren: In the financial year 1975-76 the net institutional recurrent costs for each pupil in primary and secondary schools were £263 and £404 respectively at 1975 survey prices. The estimated figures for the present financial year, at the same price level, are £269 and £398.

Treasury, March 3
Household spending: Average consumer expenditure a household was about £43.20 a week in the first quarter of 1974. In the third quarter of 1976 it was about £71.40 a week.

Prices, March 7
House prices: Changes in the average level of house prices and in the prices of ordinary shares since the war, shown as an index with 100 the average house price for 1934-39 and 100 as the 1935 average share price according to the *Financial Times*, were:

Weekly rent of 3-bed council house ... 386 312 266
Weekly mortgage with 72 pc of price advanced ... 484 600 750

A periodic digest of information given in parliamentary written replies, with the sources and dates on which they appeared in Hansard

2lb beef ... 130 126 215
2lb cod ... 73 65 79
14lb potatoes ... 35 35 38
Large loaf per 11lb ... 8 9 11
4lb tea ... 25 25 25
1 quart milk ... 20 17 10
Scent soap ... 476 461 529
Scent soap ... 358 358 312
Monthly season Surbiton-Victoria ... 335 308 228
Postage 5 letters ... 27 21 18
1 telegram ... 33 25 28
20 cigarettes ... 53 53 54
1 pint beer ... 27 23 15
1 bottle whisky ... 573 559 209

The calculations have been made after taking into account income tax liability and national insurance contributions.

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Weekly rent of 3-bed council house ... 386 312 266
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1960 396 319
1965 613 337
1970 833 361
1971 943 386
1972 1,288 504
1973 1,751 436
1974 1,864 251
1975 1,968 311
1976 2,102 358

Environment, March 3
Departing doctors: Nine hundred fully or provisionally registered civilian doctors born in the United Kingdom or the Irish Republic left Great Britain in the year ended September 30, 1974, and 530 such doctors entered Great Britain from abroad.

Provisional figures for the period 1974-75 and 1975-76 indicate that the loss of such doctors was about 200 above that in the period 1973-74 in both years. The net loss appears to have increased in the period 1974-75 but returned to the 1973-74 level in 1975-76.

Social Services, March 3
Pensioners: The number of retirement pensioners in the United Kingdom was about 8,400,000 in November last year.

Social Services, March 3
Hospital waiting: The number of patients on hospital inpatient waiting lists in all specialties in England increased by 80,621 between December 31, 1973, and September 30, last year from 508,617 to 589,238. Immediate figures were 517,424 (December 31, 1974), 519,552 (September 30, 1975), and 583,851 (March 31, 1976).

Social Services, March 3
Civil defence: Estimates for civil defence spending in 1976-77 and 1977-78 are £24.8m and £23m. No major change is expected in 1978-79 or after. No expenditure on deep shelters is incurred or planned.

Home Office, March 3

'Let parents watch their child in class'

By a Staff Reporter

Parents would have more sympathy with teachers if they watched their children during lessons, the 30,000-member Association of Assistant Mistresses was told at its annual conference in London yesterday.

Miss M. Beard, of Penistone Grammar School, Sheffield, told the 400 teachers present that for too long teachers had thought they should be left alone to get on with the job. Parents should be invited into classrooms to see how their children reacted with other pupils and to understand better the teachers' frustrations if a child had not brought the right books or pencils.

Parents attracted by parent-teacher associations were not those the teachers most wished to see. Meetings were needed to explain to parents what was going on in schools, the different examinations and the jargon.

Miss Beard urged teachers to take the lead in encouraging parents to come to schools. Telephone invitations were often easier than letters and school newspaper could offer educational welfare officers could also act as an important link with parents.

Miss B. Smith, of Towcester, told the conference that primary and secondary schools were completely isolated from one another because of teachers' mutual fear and ignorance. Schoolchildren left to bridge the gap themselves, often repeated work and were confused by differing practices.

All too often, she said, primary school teachers felt that instruction in secondary school was inadequate, and vice versa.

What lay behind it was ignorance of the other level and fear that schools' autonomy would be lost if primary and secondary teachers discussed one another's methods.

She urged teachers of one age group to watch lessons given to other age groups.

Primary aim: A general understanding of business and commerce with the means to apply it should be a primary aim of schooling according to the London Chamber of Commerce. In a memorandum to the Department of Education and Science, it says the school-leaver needs ability to communicate, to understand written and spoken material, basic numeracy and an appreciation of a technological environment.

700,000 visitors

Almost 700,000 visitors saw the Pompeii AD 79 exhibition at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly, it closed last night.

Left chooses cuts for symbolic battle

From Our Political Staff
Perth

Mutinous feelings among the traditionally left-wing Labour activists in Scotland were subdued at the party's Scottish conference, which ended in Perth yesterday. A call for a campaign against the Government on expenditure cuts was voted down comfortably.

One resolution passed said a third year of pay cuts was unacceptable without income redistribution, permanent price control, better social services and defence cuts. Other motions called for measures to deal with unemployment.

But the chosen symbolic battleground was a motion from

the National Union of Mine-workers which called on councillors to refuse to implement cuts and asked the party in Scotland to campaign against them.

Lessons on the economic situation and the need for loyalty were read from the platform. They were sweetened by an announcement by Mr Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, that a subsidy of up to £35m was being given to enable power stations to renew their contracts to buy Scottish coal over the next five years. Scottish pits rely on these sales and Mr Millan said 8,000 jobs might be saved.

The "bestial scourge" of unemployment was highlighted earlier by Mr Foot, Leader of the Commons, as the Government's overriding problem. It needed fresh and original action, he said.

The Prime Minister was taking international initiatives to return to an expanding world economy. At home the Government was working on plans to help special groups such as school-leavers. There would also need to be imaginative socialist steps to deal with structural unemployment over the next 10 years. But the Government could not take them without a good Commons majority.

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Leading article, page 17

Theory.

Practice.

不登高峯、豈能遠視。

If you do not climb the mountains, you will not see afar.

ඉටිසෙවු සෙවුප්ඉර්ව් ඉර්ලෙහු පුලුද්මසා။

To fly, you must not only have wings, but flap them.

ท่านหมายตา ณ แห่งใด จะได้บินไป ณ แห่งนั้น

Whither you look, thither shall you fly.

百聞は一見にしかず

Seeing once for yourself is better than hearing a hundred bits of news.

සමුච්ච සමනකදිව සංචාරය විවතවි.

At the moment of meeting, the parting begins.

यदी आप अपने भालक को प्यार करते है उसे सफर पर भेजिए

If you love your child, send him on his travels.

Switzerland-Far East.									
	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦	⑧	⑨
	SR 314 DC10 FY	SR 314 DC10 FY	SR 308 DC10 FY	SR 308 DC10 FY	SR 302 DC10 FY	SR 310 DC10 FY	SR 306 DC10 FY	SR 318 DC10 FY	SR 318 DC10 FY
GENEVA dp	17 15	13 00	18 30	13 00	13 00	12 30	17 15	13 00	17 15
ZURICH dp	18 50	13 00	14 20	13 00	13 00	12 30	18 50	14 35	18 40
VIENNA ar	14 10	15 00	14 20	13 00	13 00	12 30	14 10	14 35	14 40
ATHENS ar	18 05	18 00	17 20	16 30	16 30	15 45	18 05	22 10	22 10
KARACHI ar	03 10	04 00	03 00	03 15	03 15	02 30	03 10	04 00	04 00
BOMBAY ar	07 20	08 05	07 00	07 15	07 15	06 30	07 20	08 05	08 05
COLOMBO ar	10 25	11 10	10 00	10 15	10 15	09 30	10 25	11 10	11 10
BANGKOK ar	12 25	13 10	12 00	12 15	12 15	11 30	12 25	13 10	13 10
SINGAPORE ar	17 00	17 45	16 30	16 45	16 45	16 00	17 00	17 45	17 45
HONG KONG ar	18 10	18 55	17 45	17 55	17 55	17 10	18 10	18 55	18 55
MANILA ar	19 10	19 55	18 45	18 55	18 55	18 10	19 10	19 55	19 55
PEKING ar	20 10	20 55	19 45	19 55	19 55	19 10	20 10	20 55	20 55
SHANGHAI ar	21 10	21 55	20 45	20 55	20 55	20 10	21 10	21 55	21 55
TOKYO ar	22 10	22 55	21 45	21 55	21 55	21 10	22 10	22 55	22 55

Far East-Switzerland.									
	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦	⑧	⑨
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SINGAPORE dp	19 10	19 55	18 45	18 55	18 55	18 10	19 10	19 55	19 55
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KARACHI ar	23 10	23 55	22 45	22 55	22 55	22 10	23 10	23 55	23 55
ATHENS ar	03 55	04 40	03 30	03 45	03 45	03 00	03 55	04 40	04 40
VIENNA ar	04 55	05 40	04 30	04 45	04 45	04 00	04 55	05 40	05 40
GENEVA ar	05 10	05 55	04 45	05 00	05 00	04 15	05 10	05 55	05 55
ZURICH ar	06 25	07 10	05 50	06 05	06 05	05 20	06 25	07 10	07 10
GENEVA ar	07 30	08 15	06 55	07 10	07 10	06 25	07 30	08 15	08 15

- ① Monday
- ② Tuesday
- ③ Wednesday
- ④ Thursday
- ⑤ Friday
- ⑥ Saturday
- ⑦ Sunday
- ⑧ Lunch or dinner
- ⑨ Light meal
- ⑩ Breakfast
- ⑪ Refreshment
- ⑫ For transit passengers V.I.
- ⑬ Film projection and a selection of 8 different music programs (music available on every DC-10 flight leg).
- ⑭ First class
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- ⑯ No local traffic.
- All times shown are local times.
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HOME NEWS

Revival of N and F level examinations plan may be kiss of life for minority subjects

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

Thousands of copies of proposed syllabuses for a new national set of examinations to replace the A level General Certificate of Education (GCE) will be sent to schools and businesses in the autumn by the Schools Council, the Government-sponsored body that advises on the curriculum.

An old plan to broaden sixth-form studies with a five-subject examination system (instead of three) has taken on a new lease of life. Its suggested N (Normal) and F (Further) levels, which were rejected by the committee in 1971, are no longer as dead ducks that many schools believed them to be.

The results of an exercise involving the new examination in 19 schools will be published by the council early next year, and a full report will be given by the council's joint examinations subcommittee.

The plan can then be the subject of a general debate before the full council decides in 1979 whether to endorse it and submit it to the Government. If approved, it could be operating by 1984, and A levels would be abolished in that year.

The plan was dropped by the council in 1971 after it had been rejected by most educational establishments, particularly the universities, which believed that it would lower standards. Its revival is likely to cause as much controversy as the council's recent proposals to merge GCE O-level and the Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE) examinations, now being investigated by a Government committee.

As reported in *The Times* on Saturday, Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, called for changes in the traditional concentration on three subjects at A level in the sixth form. She said at a meeting of the Association of Assistant Masters on Friday that too early specialization was bad for a trading nation and she complained that many pupils were dropping mathematics and foreign languages too soon. The advocates of the N and F plan are hoping, therefore, for her support.

Under the plan, pupils, after taking their 16-plus examination (O-level or CSE), would be required at 18-plus to pass three subjects at N level and two at F level if they wished to proceed to higher education. N level would require half, and F level three-quarters, of the study time spent on an A-level course.

Mr Rupert Booth, the Schools Council's senior educational adviser, told a meeting of head teachers at Reading University on Saturday that 13,000 copies of 56 syllabuses covering 16 subject areas would be sent to schools and businesses, probably in the early autumn.

The council expects to publish in January a 256-page report by its joint examinations subcommittee on the resource implications of its plan. The report, now nearly completed, finds that the new examination system would not require more teachers, if schools with fewer than 150 pupils in the sixth form were prepared to teach N and F level pupils in the same classes.

The subcommittee's report is based on a survey in which 2,802 sixth-formers in 19 schools and students in five colleges of further education were asked to pretend that the plan was in operation and to choose their subjects. The schools were then asked to draw up timetables. Preliminary findings indicate that considerably more pupils would study subjects at N and F levels than are at present on A-level courses. The numbers taking mathematics would increase by about half, and twice as many girls would take the subject. The numbers taking geography would double, and those taking Latin would nearly treble.

Professor Jack Allanson, of Birmingham University, a member of the subcommittee, told the meeting that the evidence showed that N and F would be sent to schools and businesses, probably in the early autumn.

He said that most sixth-formers had chosen a good balance of subjects in three or four different areas. That meant that some of the schools would have had to put subjects on the sixth-form timetable for the first time.

He said that many sixth-formers chose Latin, Greek, Spanish, Italian, Russian and German, which they were not going to study under the present A-level system. Professor Allanson thought that the N and F plan might end the bias in the English education system against brighter pupils doing technology and design subjects in the sixth form.

He said afterwards: "Shirley Williams's speech on Friday was marvellous. I now hope she will back a discussion on the N and F proposals as part of the next round of the great debate on education for the 16 to 19-year-olds."

Religious change call: Ending the system of denominational voluntary church schools in favour of interdenominational "Christian schools" with greater state support for capital costs, might help to ease the church's debts, Mr William van Straubenzon, Conservative MP for Wokingham, said in Nottingham on Saturday.

Let there be no doubt that a minority of criminal lawyers do very well from the proceeds of crime. A reputation for success, achieved by persistent lack of scruple in the defence of the most disreputable, soon attracts other clients who see little hope of acquittal in any other way.

Experienced and respected Metropolitan detectives can identify lawyers in criminal practice who are more harmful to society than the clients they represent.

A copy of the list, marked "highly confidential", and containing the names of barristers, solicitors and legal office staff, has been handed to the Law Society by *The Sunday Times*. It is unlikely that the disciplinary committee will be able to take action against those named.

An official observed: "If the police, with all their resources, cannot make the allegation stick, there is little chance that we shall be able to."

Kidney appeal
From today learner drivers applying for licences will receive a card authorizing the use of their kidneys for transplants in the event of their death, whether in a road accident or not.

It is hoped that many drivers will sign the cards, thus increasing the supply of kidneys, which are urgently needed.

Law Society to study black list of lawyers

By Clive Borrell
Crime Correspondent

The disciplinary committee of the Law Society is to examine a Metropolitan Police black list containing the names of 30 lawyers who specialize in defending professional criminals.

The existence of the list was first revealed more than three years ago by Sir Robert Mark, then as Commissioner, he delivered the Dimpleby Lectures on BBC Television. He said then:

"The kind of behaviour I have in mind is often easy for the police to recognize but almost impossible to prove. We see the same lawyers producing off the peg the same kind of defence for different clients. Prosecution witnesses suddenly and inexplicably change their minds."

Public accusations of misconduct, however, have always been one-sided, with the result that the doubts about the criminal trial mostly centre upon police conduct, as if the police alone had a motive for improper behaviour.

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Attack on 'arbitrary' Treasury cash limits

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Edward du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton and chairman of the powerful Public Accounts Committee, will attack the Treasury's system of cash limits later this month on the ground that they undermine parliamentary control of public expenditure.

His criticisms will appear in a pamphlet prepared for the Conservative Political Centre. They could be reflected in a report on the workings of cash limits during their first year in operation to be published by the Public Accounts Committee in the next few weeks, after a special investigation by Sir Douglas Hensley, the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Cash limits are now applied to three quarters of central government spending. With the new machinery for monitoring monthly cash flows, known in Whitehall as the financial information system, cash limits are the critical weapon in the Treasury's attempt to reassert control over public expenditure after the setbacks of 1971-74.

In an interview with *The Times* last week Mr du Cann said: "Cash limits are set arbitrarily by Treasury ministers. They have never been the subject of parliamentary discussion or decision and are a further weakening of parliamentary control."

He also expressed disquiet with the form and content of

the White Papers on public expenditure published by the Treasury in recent weeks. They represented an abandonment of the principles set out in the Plowden report of 1961.

The Treasury had never fulfilled the Plowden recommendation that a continuous evaluation of the division of resources between the public and private sectors should be made. Now the system of five-year forward projections of spending had been discontinued, adversely affecting the quality of information on which MPs could base their judgments.

Mr du Cann has corresponded with the Prime Minister in an attempt to improve Parliament's watchdog powers through a merger of the Public Accounts and Expenditure committees. Mr Callaghan has suggested that any reform should await the report of the Select Committee on Procedure later this year.

Mr du Cann welcomed a suggestion by Sir Derek Rayner, joint managing director of Marks and Spencer and former chief executive of the Ministry of Defence procurement executive, in his evidence before the Expenditure Committee, that the whole tone of Whitehall could be changed if the Public Accounts Committee praised examples of efficient management as well as criticizing failures.

Human right convention 'unsuitable' for UK

By Our Legal Correspondent

The European Convention on Human Rights is entirely unsuitable for incorporation into British law, the Law Society's law reform committee says in a memorandum published today. Making the convention part of national law would preempt the outcome of the debate on the need for fundamental constitutional change, by shifting the centre of gravity from Parliament towards the judiciary.

The memorandum says that by concentrating on the desirability of introducing legislation on the lines of the European convention, last year's consultative document on a Bill of Rights had avoided the real issue, which was to determine what changes were needed in Britain's fundamental constitutional structure, and particularly the relationship between Parliament, the executive and the judiciary.

"We now find ourselves debating a proposal to enact into domestic law a series of directly enforceable human rights, formulated in the vaguest and most general terms and subject to almost equally vague qualifications", the committee comments.

"Such a proposal is so totally at variance with traditional attitudes in this country that it seems to us to make no sense except as part of a proposal for a complete overhaul of our fundamental constitutional arrangements."

Sir Robert says 'ball jumpers' live off crime

One of the last documents to be signed by Sir Robert Mark before he retired as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police at the weekend was a memorandum to the Home Office pointing out the high incidence of crime committed by "ball jumpers".

A survey in London during the past six months shows that at any one time there are 3,000 to 4,000 adults living off crime after failing to surrender to their bail.

Sir Robert said in an interview published in *The Sunday Times* yesterday: "They are living off crime because they are unable to secure employment or social security benefits. Yet the new Act provides for a presumption in favour of bail and shows yet again how new legislation is rarely properly researched before being brought in."

City buyers arouse farmers' suspicions

A new figure has moved to the front line in farmers' demagogues. He progresses slowly through the countryside in a purple limousine. From time to time he stops and leans languidly forward from the ample cushions. He stares expressionless at the landscape, then uses the end of a rolled umbrella to tap the driver into renewed motion.

Some farmers are more worried about purchases of estates by foreign buyers or City finance houses than they are about nationalization of farmland. The latter has been adopted in the policy of the Labour Party and the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers but rejected by Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Finance houses, insurance companies and pension funds which buy agricultural land arouse resentment in farmers for four reasons. First, they appear to have plenty of ready cash. Secondly, they do not die and therefore escape the burden of capital transfer tax which overtakes the descendants of inescapably mortal family farmers.

Thirdly, they want the best land and have the resources with which to buy it. That evokes visions of practising farmers being forced off the lush lowlands into the hills. Fourthly, the financial institutions are targets for suspicion in the agricultural com-

Agriculture

Hugh Clayton

munity about the entry of non-farmers who appear to have no lasting commitment to farming. Such institutional landowners have their defenders. They include surveyors and agents who depend for a living on commissions and therefore have a vested interest in encouraging a busy and diverse market for farms.

Land attracts institutions for many of the reasons that make it look desirable to foreign buyers. The price of what is produced on the land is being pulled up in real terms by the operation of EEC farm policy; the Government favours expansion of food output at home and estates in Britain are considered to be in less danger of bombing, armed attack or seizure by the state than elsewhere.

Moreover, the Government has shown by deferring wealth tax and diluting the effect of capital transfer tax that it will accept at least part of the case for the private landowner against the demands of some of its supporters.

The alternative government would accept that case even more cheerfully.

Many farmers are confused about the position of financial institutions as owners of British farms. They sometimes seem to think in almost Orwellian terms: "Family owners good, institutional owners bad."

Yet most land that belongs to institutions now has been owned by them for 40 years or more. The figure of 9 per cent of farmland in England and Wales is used widely as a measure of institutional ownership. But that figure, which was not used much until the Country Landowners' Association quoted it in a discussion paper, applies to all institutions.

It includes land owned by the Crown, the church, local authorities and government departments, as well as the holdings acquired more recently by City finance houses and other corporate bodies. Much less is quoted with authority in public about the amount of land those financial bodies hold. The most likely figure now is between 220,000 and 250,000 hectares, or little more than a fifth of the total.

The penetration of corporate institutions is greater in the arable counties of the eastern half of England than in Wales or the rest of England. Their holdings may amount to as much as a twentieth of the total farmland area of

Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire taken together.

Their purchases matter more than their holdings, however, and that is where concern about their role should be concentrated. It is clear that their intense interest in farmland since the price boom of 1973 has brought them only a tiny fraction of the total farm area in England and Wales, which in turn represents only a minute section of their investment portfolios.

Farmers are worried about the effect of institutions on land prices. But they should worry more about the impact of institutional buying than of institutional ownership. That is because the amount of land owned is vastly greater than the amount being sold.

Less than a fifth of British farmland changes hands through sale each year. Last year almost a quarter of the small proportion sold in England and Wales was bought, and in a few cases sold, by financial institutions. That is where the fiscal advantage of the institutional buyer, now being investigated by the National Farmers' Union, assumes an important role.

Most farms will be owned by farmers, despite the entry of financial institutions to the market. But the value of the land held by some of those farmers may be affected by institutional activity.

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WEST EUROPE

Battles on streets of Rome bring night of terror to capital in Italy's worst disorders since war

From Patricia Clough
Rome, March 13

The Italian Government today banned all public demonstrations in Rome after a weekend of violence and destruction. Last night the streets of the city were virtually deserted. People were afraid to go outside, only emerging from their homes to stand huddled in doorways.

According to the latest official figures, 14 policemen were injured, one critically, and 18 demonstrators were arrested and 100 detained. The violence also erupted in Bologna and to a lesser extent in Milan and Turin.

For seven hours Rome was in the grip of full-scale urban warfare. Two gun shops were ransacked for firearms, innumerable shops, cafés and hotels were damaged and hundreds of cars and many buses were smashed up, overturned or burnt. The offices and newspaper of the ruling Christian Democrat Party were attacked with petrol bombs.

As calm returned after midnight, carloads of guerrillas were reported to be leaving the city at high speed, firing at police manning roadblocks.

The battle had started as a peaceful demonstration by 50,000 students from all over Italy to protest against youth unemployment and plans by the Government and the Communist Party for the long-promised university reforms.

But in the preceding days events had combined to whip up

tension. A left-wing student, Fabrizio Panzani, had been jailed for more than nine years on highly controversial grounds for "moral" complicity in the shooting of a Greek student during a demonstration, and at Bologna another student was shot dead, allegedly by carabinieri, during disturbances at the university.

As a result the demonstration soon deteriorated into what police and journalists agreed was probably the most violent and vicious disorders seen in Italy since the war. While the majority maintained good order, groups of extremists broke away to roam the city spreading fear and destruction. Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Interior Minister, described their actions as a "prearranged and criminal plan of guerrilla warfare". And the youths certainly gave that impression. They moved deliberately and without emotion, calmly doing as much damage as possible, acting in small groups, appearing and disappearing in the maze of narrow streets, difficult to follow and catch.

While the vandalism was clearly intended to upset the public, the gunfire evidently partially succeeded in unnerving the police, already stunned by the cold-blooded assassination of an officer by an extremist group in Turin that morning. At the Rome police headquarters tension was running so high that the police chief ordered captured demonstrators to be taken to local police stations for questioning, as he could not

guarantee their physical safety at headquarters.

Even more alarming were reports that groups of plainclothes policemen were savagely beating up students heading for home, while uniformed colleagues turned a blind eye.

The Communist Party organ L'Unità today branded the disorders as a vast manoeuvre aimed at undermining democracy in Italy. The Corriere della Sera said there was a "presumption of endemic civil war". La Stampa of Turin urged the Government to stamp out the violence "while there is still time".

At the root of the trouble is the mass unemployment among school and college-leavers. Sociologists have been saying for some months that the situation was likely to explode violently at any moment.

The numbers of unemployed youths are impossible to ascertain when the Labour Ministry's unemployment figure—1,350,000—is almost double that of the Statistics Office. Estimates range from half a million to three million young people alone.

The sense of hopelessness and frustration has turned the universities, particularly that of Rome, into hotbeds of a new extremism. Unlike the university revolt of 1968 there are no political ideals: the Communists are hated as much as the Christian Democrats. The rebels reject politics, the institutions, democracy, the very society from which they feel outcasts.



President Giscard d'Estaing arrives with his wife and father to vote at Chamonat, central France, in the local elections

Rival Masses in Saint Germain

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, March 13

The church occupied by traditionalists, the Roman Catholics of St Nicholas du Chardonnet, on Paris's Left Bank, today attended a modern Mass in the presbytery which is still in their control. Next door, in the seventeenth-century church, more than 2,000 followers of Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre gave themselves to a day of devotion. As they mingled on the Boulevard Saint Germain, before

filling into their respective Masses, the traditionalists and the churchless parishioners fought their verbal battles. "You have turned us into refugees from the church which has been our home since birth," exclaimed a man in his seventies waving his black beret. "There you are wrong" came the reply. "It is the Vatican Council that has turned the whole church into refugees." In the three weeks since they forcibly occupied the yellowstoned church of St Nicholas,

with its fine paintings and ornate side chapels, the traditionalists have succeeded in making their presence felt in the French capital. In the early days there were scuffles between the fervent followers of Archbishop Lefebvre and the irate parishioners. But now an uneasy stalemate prevails. Last week one of the traditionalist leaders gave a warning, however, that any attempt to evict them would result in the occupation of the Notre Dame Cathedral.

4,000 sieze stadium in Basque protest

From Harry Debellus
Madrid, March 13

A policeman was shot dead in an ambush near Vitoria today as turmoil continued in the Basque country. In San Sebastian, 4,000 demonstrators took over a sports stadium during an international competition.

The policeman, Señor Constantino Gómez Barcia, was killed when two men opened fire with shotguns on a car in which he and three other off-duty members of the civil guard and the fiancée of one of them, were returning from a dance to their barracks at Mondragon about 3 am.

The attackers, who appeared to have been waiting for the policeman, stepped out from another vehicle and blasted away at the police, who had stopped at a traffic sign. Apart from Señor Gómez, two policemen were injured, one seriously.

When the gunman's car was found later, its owner was discovered to be locked inside the boot. He told police he was forced into the boot about six hours before the shooting.

The killers are believed to be members of the ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty), taking revenge for the shooting of two ETA men by the civil guard at a roadblock near San Sebastian last Tuesday.

Shortly before noon today, about 4,000 spectators at the eighth indoor European athletics championship meeting took over the Anoeta arena in San Sebastian in support of a demand for a total amnesty. Athletes from 25 countries

taking part watched as the crowd surged on to the track, chanting slogans in Basque. These were translated into all the major European languages and broadcast over the loudspeakers.

The police, who were outnumbered, agreed to withdraw and not make any arrests. Then the crowd poured out of the arena, leaving the athletes to continue with virtually no audience. The demonstrators marched through the streets of San Sebastian, where they were joined by thousands of others.

The demonstration, like several others in the Basque country over a weekend, made it clear that the expansion of the royal amnesty announced by the Government last week-end, in conjunction with a broad but restricted pardon, was not enough for the Basques, who have consistently called for total and immediate freedom for political prisoners.

In Madrid, about 200 people, including relatives of some Basque prisoners, staged a hunger strike at a church in the working class suburb of Moratalaz in favour of an amnesty. Police broke up another demonstration by several hundred people in front of the women's prison here this morning.

In another significant political development, Señor José María Gil Robles, a former minister of the Spanish Republican Government, resigned yesterday as president of the Popular Democratic Federation, in order to join the coalition of Christian Democratic parties.

British winners, page 11

Portugal wins backing for 1981 EEC membership

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, March 13

Portugal will receive the full support of the European Commission in seeking membership of the EEC at the earliest possible date. This emerged from the weekend discussions in Brussels between Mr Roy Jenkins, the president of the Commission, and Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister.

Dr Soares's visit to Brussels was the last stop on a two-stage tour of European capitals which is to be followed at the end of March by the lodging of a formal application for EEC membership. As a member of EFTA, the European Free Trade Association, Portugal is already linked to the Community by a free trade agreement.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Dr Soares said that he expected the Commission to hand down its constitutionally required opinion on the Portuguese application by January of next year at the latest. This could be followed a few months later by the opening of entry negotiations with the EEC's Council of Ministers.

The negotiations might take two to three years, Dr Soares reckoned, enabling Portugal to join the Community around 1980-81. A five-year transitional period would then be necessary for industry and trade, and a little longer for agricultural goods, so that Portugal could expect to be fully integrated by about 1987.

Commission officials indicated that they had no serious quarrel with this timetable, while acknowledging that in the final analysis it would be the attitude of the nine existing EEC members acting through the Council of Ministers, which would determine how quickly Portugal joined the Community.

The warmth of Dr Soares's reception in Brussels was evidence of the desire to dispel suggestions that Mr Jenkins and his colleagues were unenthusiastic about the prospect of Portuguese membership, an impression which gained currency after Mr Jenkins's recent visit to Rome.

The French have recently suggested that the entry negotiations already opened with Greece and the applications expected in a few weeks from Portugal and, possibly later in the year, from Spain should be treated together, with uniform criteria being applied.

The idea behind this suggestion seems to be to give the EEC more time to examine the economic implications of further enlargement of the Community and also to look at the probable consequences for the working of existing EEC institutions.

While claiming to be unaware of this French view, Dr Soares made it clear that he would be against any "globalisation" of entry negotiations. Each applicant country, he argued, had a right to see its case treated separately because each had its own special economic conditions and was moving towards democracy at its own pace.

He did not underestimate the economic obstacles in the way of Portugal's integration, and he accepted that a vast recovery programme would have to be carried out with the cooperation of the Community and in parallel with negotiations for a "globalisation" of entry negotiations. In the absence of Dr Soares, Portugal has been swept by yet another wave of industrial unrest and political agitation while the cost of living continues to rise.

Strikes have affected the textile industry, the steel mills, travel agencies, glass factories and a number of small firms.

Family's expulsion stopped by Queen Juliana

From Our Correspondent
The Hague, March 13

Queen Juliana of the Netherlands has intervened to prevent the expulsion of a family of illegal immigrants. An Indonesian mother and her three children, who were due to be expelled on Friday, have been allowed to remain in the Netherlands while their case is further considered.

Mrs Thung-Go Seng Guar came with her children to Holland four and a half years ago, after she had been deserted by her husband. She has been living with relatives who opted for Dutch nationality when Indonesia became independent. Her children, now aged seven, 11

and 14, have been attending Dutch schools. Their expulsion was ordered after a final appeal for a resident's permit was rejected by the Council of State.

Schoolmates of the Thung children and a Protestant minister who has been trying to help the family to settle in Holland, petitioned Queen Juliana.

The Queen, who is at present on holiday in Austria, has declined to sign the expulsion order and has asked for further information on the Thung family.

The Ministry of Justice says that proceedings have been suspended until "the opinion of the Crown has been established".

Swiss vote against sending foreign workers home

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, March 12

Voting on the issue for the third time in seven years, the Swiss today decisively rejected a proposal for a big reduction in the number of foreign workers allowed in the country.

With a 45 per cent turnout in the referendum, the vote against the proposal, put forward by the right-wing Republican Movement, was more than two to one.

The Republicans, headed by Mr James Schwarzenbach, had campaigned for a constitutional amendment under which the number of foreigners would have been brought down to one-eighth of the total of Swiss nationals over the next decade. At present there are about 958,000 foreigners working in the country.

Switzerland has a population of 5,200,000 and the population

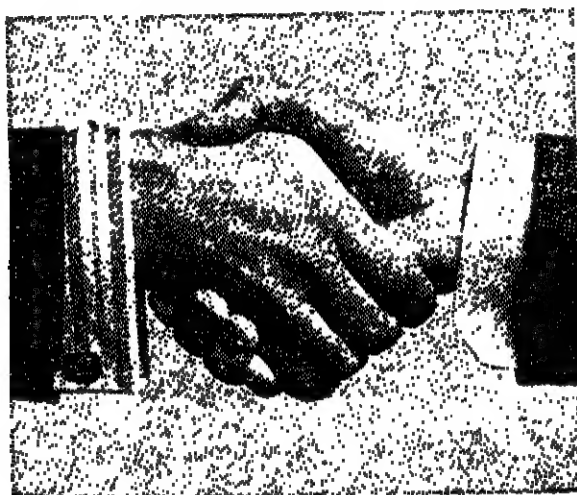
growth is almost static. At least 250,000 foreigners would have had to leave the country if the proposal had gone through.

Voters simultaneously rejected a proposal by National Action, another small right-wing party, to limit naturalisations to 4,000 annually, under the present rate.

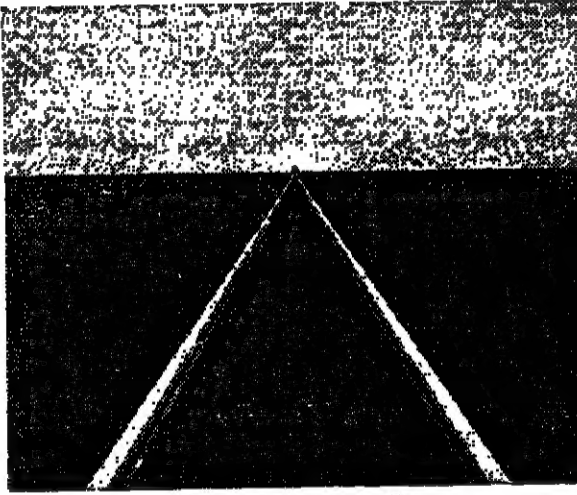
A second proposal by the same group for holding a referendum with retroactive effect—on adherence to any international treaty, met the same fate. But voters accepted a Government counter-proposal for voting on any future commitment affecting traditional Swiss neutrality.

The xenophobia manifest in the right-wing proposals appears to emphasise the point made by Swiss political commentators that foreign workers still serve as scapegoats for those concerned about the social and economic situation.

Look what you gain when you travel by train



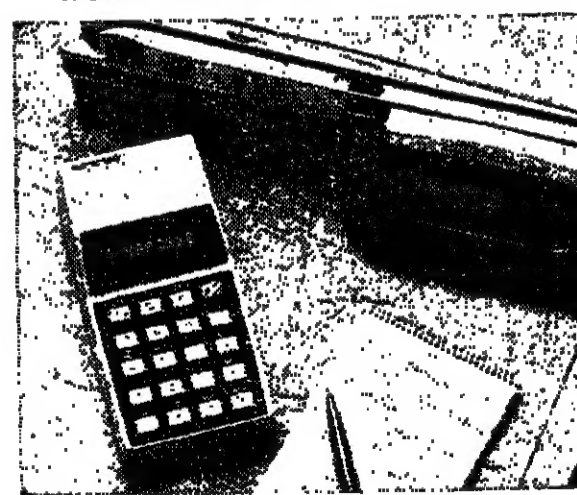
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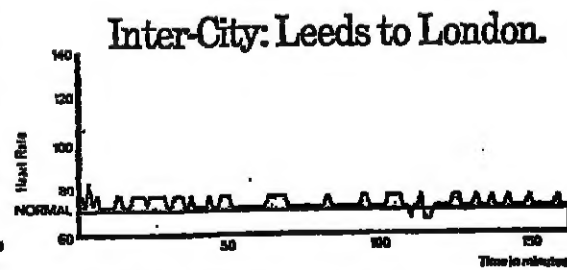
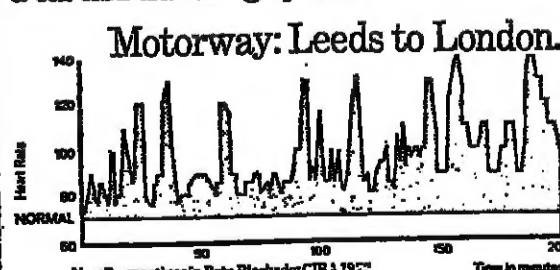


A car at the other end (at over 60 stations).



More relaxation.

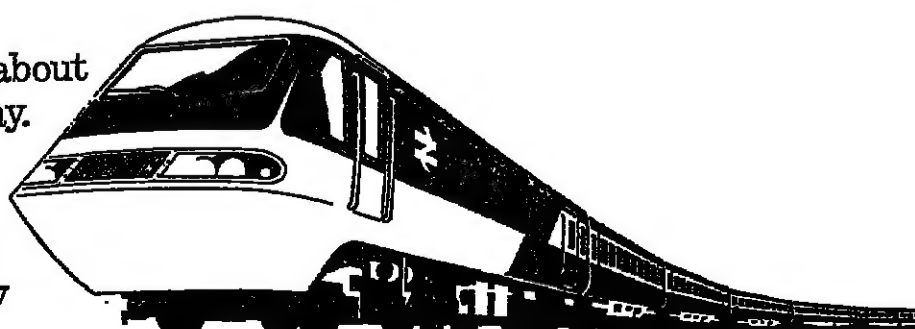
A medical research team from Leeds University has monitored the heartbeats of 24 businessmen—measuring the stresses and strains imposed by travel, comparing driving a car and travelling by train.



Motorway incidents (rain, fog, overtaking) set hearts racing. Heartbeat peaks ranged from 110 to 140 beats per minute. Overall average: 93 beats.

During this fast two-hundred mile journey, heartbeat rates stayed low, around 70 beats per minute, rising to a maximum of 80. Average: 72 beats.

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مكتبة الأصيل

OVERSEAS

319 million electors will decide who is to govern India

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, March 13

When polling begins on Wednesday in India's general election, it will, according to Delhi officials, be the biggest democratic electoral exercise the world has seen. A total of 319 million voters, aged 21 or over, will be entitled to choose between a ruling party, an opposition, regional groupings, and a host of independent candidates.

It is such a huge exercise that voting will be spread over four days, though no area will poll on more than one day.

Mr P. I. Jacob, the deputy chief election commissioner, has been supervising the detailed preparations from the capital, while the chief commissioner is making a final inspection of arrangements in the 22 states of the union.

Mr Jacob predicted at least 60 per cent of the electorate would vote compared with only 55 per cent at India's last general election in 1971. But he declined to speculate on how this may affect the results, though observers here believe a low poll would favour the ruling Congress Party.

Forty-four million people will be eligible to vote for the first time. There will be about 1,200,000 ballot boxes at 373,400 polling stations and two million officials, not counting the police, will be on duty.

Helicopters will take ballot papers to remote parts, and will also be used, and in two states, Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, the only to be held in certain circumstances in late May or early June after the snows have melted.

Each station will be equipped with indelible ink to mark the voter's finger, sealing wax, and lanterns (if the electric light should fail). Mr Jacob said the electoral rolls, which took 300,000 officials nine months to prepare,

were ready last August. "We had been preparing for a general election for the past two years," he added.

Mr Jacob showed me one of the numbered microprinted papers with a secret seal that will be locked into each ballot box after it has been signed by the agents of each candidate. If the ballot box is then tampered with, the secret seal would be broken.

The election commission maintains that the seals make it impossible to interfere with the boxes. But opposition candidates have said this is not the only way to influence the election unfairly. They have expressed fears about intimidation of voters in some states and point out that presiding officers are often minor government employees.

The count will not begin until March 20. In the meantime the ballot boxes will be taken to storage places, usually schools, and agents will be given the serial numbers of used and unused ballot papers.

Mr Jacob said they would be allowed to accompany the lorries transporting the boxes and they would be able to post guards outside the storage centres.

Asked about fears of "booth capturing"—in the past gangs have raided polling stations to take and fill in ballot papers—Mr Jacob said: "Whenever we hear of anything like that we will order a fresh poll."

Mr Jacob said the opposition had so far failed to give any detailed evidence to back claims that government printing presses in Uttar Pradesh state had been printing duplicate ballot papers. This week-end the chief election officer in Calcutta admitted 3,500 ballot papers had been found with identical numbers but this, Mr Jacob said, was a "serious mistake". They would be destroyed.

Civil protest to go ahead as Bhutto offer fails

From Hasan Akhtar
Rawalpindi, March 13

Pakistan National Alliance tonight rejected an offer by Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister, to hold talks on the political crisis caused by allegations that the Government rigged the general election result. They confirmed their determination to begin a civil disobedience campaign tomorrow.

Mr Bhutto, in a radio and television speech last night, urged the opposition to begin talks. He said that while the National Assembly elections would not be upset, he was prepared to discuss other matters, which it was presumed could include the question of fresh elections to four provincial assemblies.

The opposition boycotted the provincial assembly elections until March 20. In the meantime the National Assembly elections on Monday. They said the result was rigged.

Tonight, opposition leaders, including Maulana Mufi Mahmud, Air Marshal Asghar Khan and Professor Ghafur Ahmed, said the Prime Minister's offer to hold talks was unacceptable. They have demanded the resignations of Mr Bhutto and the election commission and have called for fresh general elections to be held under the protection of the Army.

The Prime Minister, in his speech, described these demands as childish and unacceptable.

Police harassment was the final blow for Professor Jan Patocka
Leader of Prague's Charter 77 campaign dies

Prague, March 13.—Professor Jan Patocka, the Czechoslovak philosopher and a leading campaigner for civil and human rights, died today after suffering a cerebral haemorrhage on Friday. He was 69.

He was admitted to hospital in Prague nine days ago, shortly after he had been interrogated for 11 hours. He had just recovered from a bad bout of influenza and, despite doctors' advice to rest, he continued to act as a spokesman for the Charter 77 human and civil rights group.

Although Professor Patocka said he had been treated correctly during the police interrogation, the long session appeared to have been the

final blow to his health, family sources said. He was also said to have been affected by administrative harassment and constant attacks against him in the government press.

Professor Patocka was frequently questioned by police and summoned to government offices, where he was warned that his Charter 77 activities were contrary to Czechoslovak laws.

Earlier this month the Communist Party daily newspaper *Rude Pravo* accused him of defending Nazism in his philosophical works in 1942, and attacked his "reactionary, anti-democratic past".

His final interrogation came after his meeting two days previously with Mr Max van der

Stoel, the Dutch Foreign Minister, who was in Prague on an official visit.

In Holland, Mr van der Stoel said he was saddened by Professor Patocka's death. He described him as a fighter for human rights.

The police today maintained their pressure on Professor Patocka's fellow campaigners. Mr Václav Havel, the playwright and a Charter 77 spokesman, who was arrested two months ago, has been remanded in custody for at least another month, his wife said.

It is believed that similar detention orders have been issued against Mr Jiri Lederer, a former journalist, and Mr Frantisek Pavlicek and Mr Ota

Ernest, both former theatre directors, who were arrested at the same time as Mr Havel. No formal charges have been brought against any of them.

Another spokesman for the group, Dr Jiri Hajek, a former Foreign Minister, is still under virtual house arrest. The police are turning away all foreign visitors to Dr Hajek's small suburban house and Czechoslovakians are allowed in only after being searched.

The former minister, a "keep fit" enthusiast, has come to an arrangement with the police whereby he can continue his daily jogging sessions along an established course under constant surveillance.—*Reuter.* *Obituary, page 18*

Prisoners of conscience



Yugoslavia: Jeno Gordos

By David Wynn

The continuing unrest in Yugoslavia by various groups agitating for independence is reflected in the detention of Mr Jeno Gordos, a chemical laboratory technician, who was arrested in Subotica, Vojvodina province, in January of last year.

Mr Gordos, who was held for "hostile propaganda", was an active member of Yugoslavia's Hungarian minority in Vojvodina, which was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. According to the Hungarian newspaper *Magyar Hirlap*, Mr Gordos was tried last October together with Mr Karoly Vici, a teacher accused of the same offence.

The charges said Mr Gordos had been in contact with emigré organisations in Munich, Paris and Toronto while he was living in Switzerland and that he possessed propaganda material hostile to Yugoslavia and other socialist countries.

The sentence passed on Mr Gordos is unknown, but he is held at Subotica where his health is said to be poor.

Chile bans all parties after plot allegation

Santiago, March 13.—Chile's military rulers have banned all political parties and political activities by groups or individuals after announcing discovery of a plot to overthrow the Government.

The new measures, contained in a decree issued yesterday by President Pinochet, followed government allegations that Christian Democrat leaders had planned an alliance with Marxist groups.

The ban on political parties affects non-Marxist political organisations, including the Christian Democrats.—*Reuter.*

S African journalists may face jail terms

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, March 13

Editors and other journalists in South Africa will face prison sentences if they refuse to appear before the proposed new press council or decline to answer questions.

These are among the provisions of the controversial new Bill which was published yesterday, a day after a White Paper containing its main proposals had been tabled in Parliament. The White Paper had not specified the penalties provided for in the Bill.

Anyone refusing or failing to appear before the council will be liable to six months' imprisonment or a £300 fine, or both, for a first offence. The

fine is raised to £500 for a second offence and to £1,330 and/or one year's imprisonment on a third or subsequent conviction.

Six months' prison sentences and £330 fines can also be imposed for a number of other infringements. These include refusing to answer questions put by the press council, refusing to take an oath or make an affirmation at the request of the council's chairman and insulting or belittling a member of the council.

As the council can demand to know a journalist's source of information, a journalist could be jailed for refusing to name an informant.

The Bill has united the

Afrikaans and English language press in an unprecedented show of opposition.

It has also resulted in a confrontation within one of the two main Afrikaans publishing groups, Perskor, between Mr Ben Schoeman, its chairman and a former Cabinet minister, and Dr Connie Mulder, a fellow director who is Minister of the Interior and was responsible for introducing the Bill.

Mr Schoeman said that the Bill would mean the introduction of press censorship.

The other Afrikaans publishing group, Nasionale Pers, while rejecting the Bill, is prepared to negotiate with the Government.

Rhodesian troops hunt killers of orphan girl

From Michael Knipe
Salisbury, March 13

Rhodesian troops were hunting today for a gang of African nationalist guerrillas who shot dead on 11-year-old white orphan girl and her grandmother on Friday evening at a farm 50 miles north-east of Salisbury.

The girl's grandfather collapsed and died of a heart attack soon afterwards while giving the military authorities details of the killings and, in Salisbury, the child's great aunt had a similar heart seizure and died on hearing the news. The tragedy is one of the most shocking to have occurred during Rhodesia's four years of guerrilla conflict.

The girl who died, Sharon McRoberts, lost her parents in an accident eight years ago. She had been collected from school on Friday afternoon by her grandparents, Mr Henry Hastings, aged 67, and his wife. The couple's son, Mr David Hastings, who lives at the adjoining farm, said today that the police had told him they believed the killings were committed by the same gang of guerrillas who killed seven Roman Catholic missionaries last month. The military authorities refused to comment.

Sharon and her grandmother were having supper at their

farmstead home near Shamva at 7.30 pm when the guerrillas entered the property. They had apparently gained possession of a key to an unused back gate to the farm's security fence. At the time the grandfather had gone outside to await the return of a tractor.

The intruders shot and killed Sharon as she attempted to run to the safety of her bedroom. Her grandmother was killed in the dining room.

Hearing the gunfire, the grandfather drew the pistol he was carrying and ran back to the house. He shot dead one guerrilla and wounded another, putting to flight the remainder of the gang, believed to number about six.

An hour later, as the grandfather was giving the details of the attack to the security forces, he suffered his fatal heart attack. The great-aunt who died in Salisbury was Mrs Norma Sim.

The deaths of Sharon and her grandmother were among 20 guerrilla war fatalities recorded during a 24-hour period. Two of those who died were White Rhodesian soldiers, 13 were African nationalist guerrillas, and five were African women accompanying them. The deaths brought the total for the week to 123 compared with 26 the previous week.

Leadership challenge to be resisted by Mr Whitlam

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, March 13

Mr Gough Whitlam, who offered the Labour Party leadership to Mr Bill Hayden after losing the 1975 election, has announced that he will resist Mr Hayden's leadership challenge made last week.

In 1975 Mr Hayden declined the offer saying he wanted to remain loyal to the Whitlam leadership. He has now changed his mind, presumably because of growing disenchantment with Mr Whitlam in the parliamentary Labour Party.

The previous caucus meeting to elect the leader is not due for three months, but already there are indications that it could be held sooner to avoid a building up of tension.

Mr Hayden is in his early forties. He has managed to project himself as a moderate and during the mud-slinging of the heated 1975 election he was one of the few who retained an acceptable public image.

He started his working life as a policeman in a small Queensland town while studying law and economics.

Just before the end of the Whitlam Government Mr Hayden became Treasurer and his budget presented in August, 1975, considerably enhanced his reputation.

Mr Hayden has taken a long time to decide what a number of his colleagues have been telling him since Mr Whitlam's fall: that the party needs him as leader.

Canadian minister defends clubbing of seal pups

From Our Correspondent
Ottawa, March 13

The annual seal hunt is getting under way on the ice floes off Northern Newfoundland amid the usual chorus of protest by animal lovers.

Protest groups in Canada and various other countries have mobilized their members to draw world attention to the hunt in which both Canadian and Norwegian hunters take part.

Foremost among them is the Greenpeace Foundation which is sending activists from Vancouver, 4,500 miles away on Canada's West coast, to join in the anti-hunt action. The foundation met with only token success in a similar protest last year.

In the face of the growing campaign against the seal hunt, the Canadian Government has been mobilizing its resources to defend it.

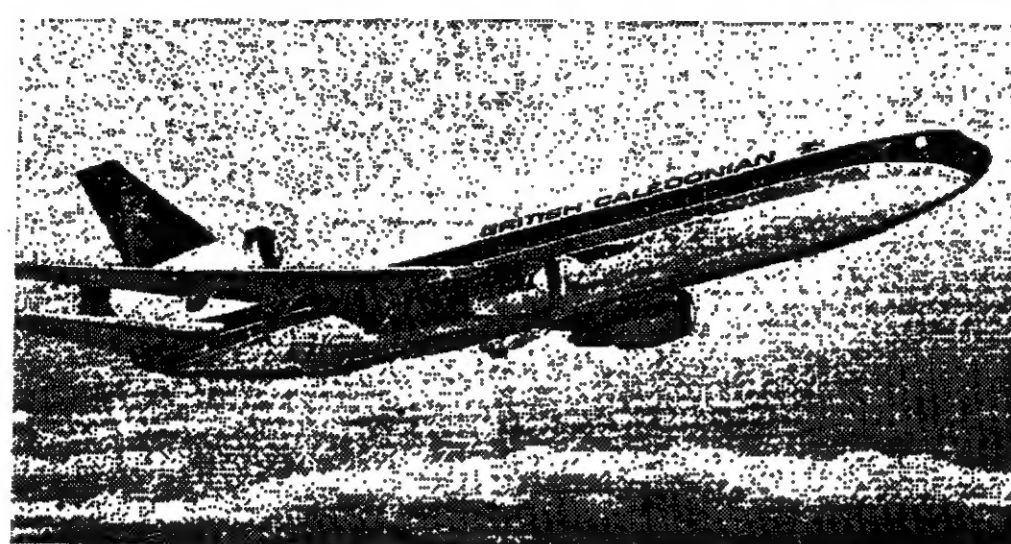
Mr Romeo Leblanc, the Fish-

eries Minister, in a letter to a newspaper has denied that the harp seal is threatened with extinction and that the method of killing with clubs is inhumane.

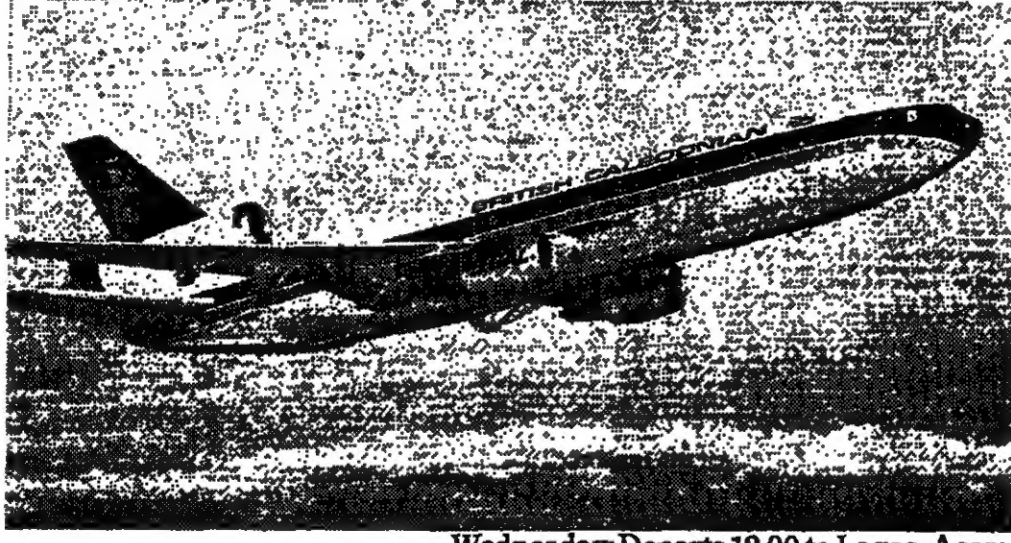
"While humane, the clubbing of small, white-coated animals leaving blood on a white background of ice and snow is unappealing and this is a factor which is readily exploited by groups with a vested interest in anti-sealing activities," he said.

Mr Leblanc, quoting "almost unanimous scientific opinion", claims that the seal herds are increasing. The permitted quota of harp seals this year is 170,000—slightly higher than in recent years. The increase was recommended by scientific advisers associated with the International Commission for the North-West Atlantic Fishery.

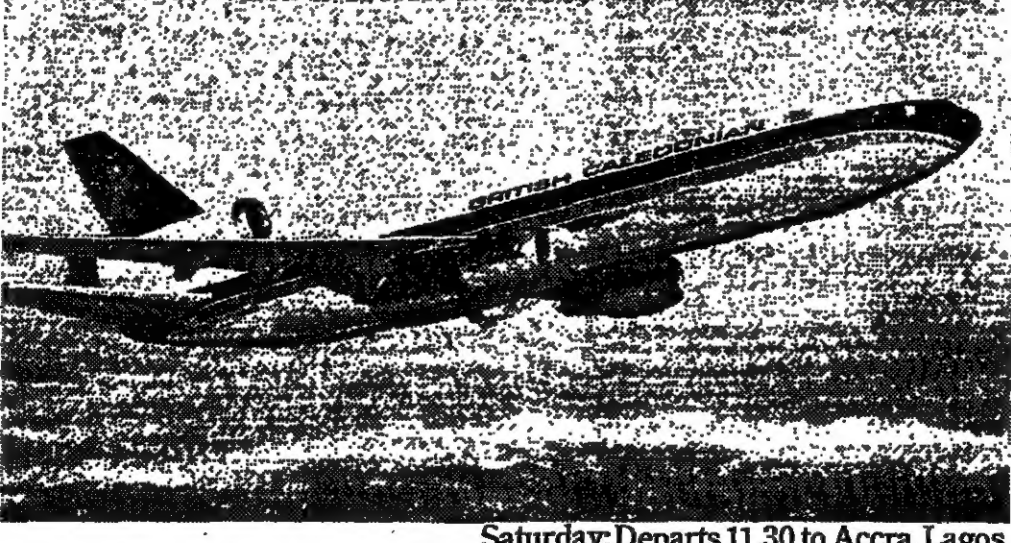
The quota for hooded seals, a less abundant species, is 15,000, as it was in 1976.



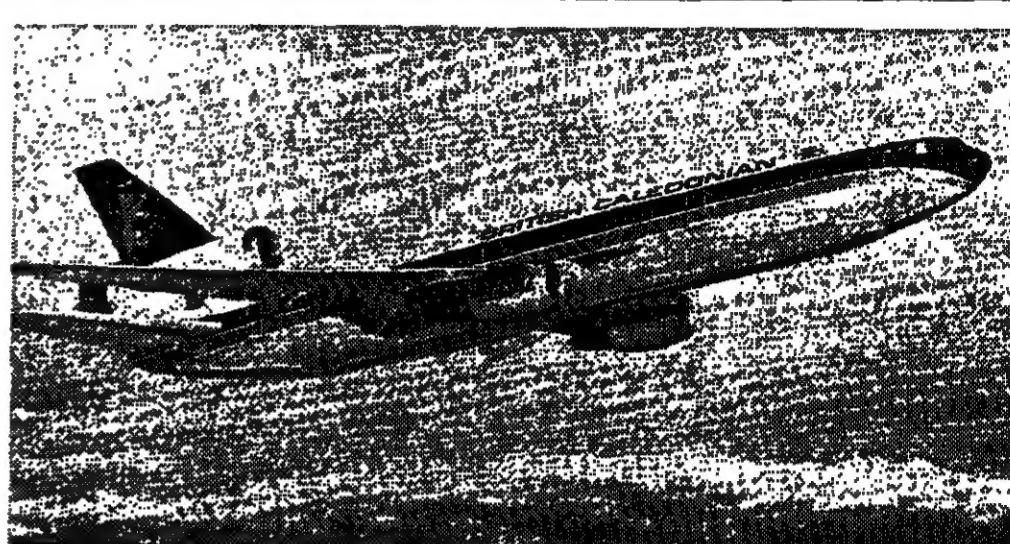
Monday: Departs 12.00 to Lagos, Accra.



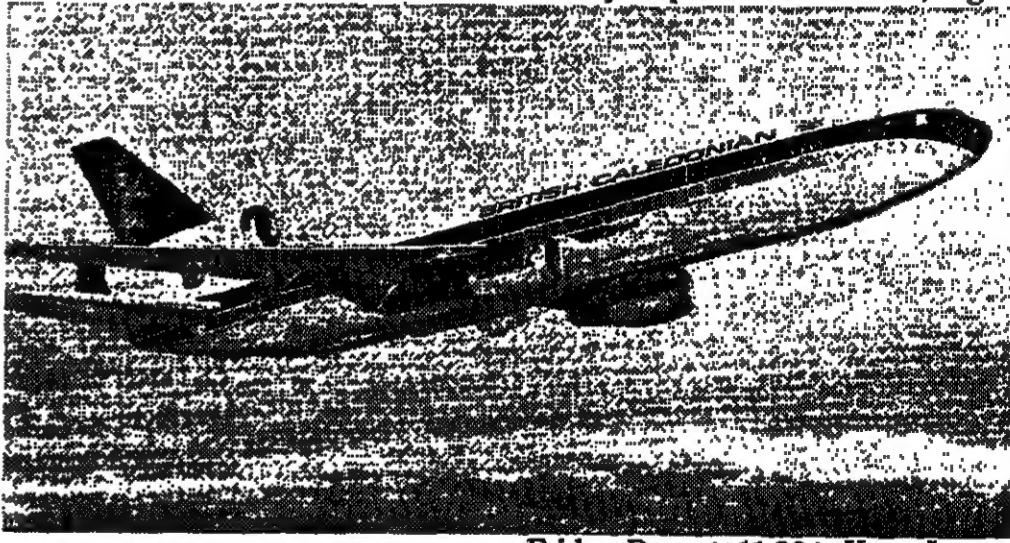
Wednesday: Departs 12.00 to Lagos, Accra.



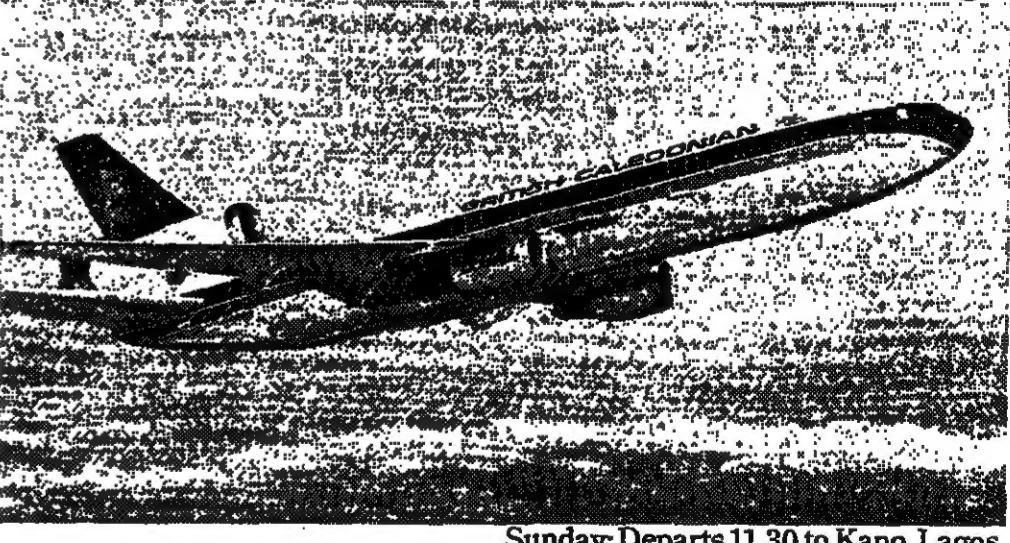
Saturday: Departs 11.30 to Accra, Lagos.



Tuesday: Departs 11.30 to Kano, Lagos.



Friday: Departs 11.30 to Kano, Lagos.



Sunday: Departs 11.30 to Kano, Lagos.

Day by day by day by day by day by day by DC-10

From March 20th British Caledonian's new DC-10 will fly by day to West Africa six days a week* (Take off midday, arrive West Africa early evening). The addition of DC-10's to our fleet is yet another example of the Bigger B.Cal.

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There's a wonderful feeling of spacious ease about the DC-10. The wide, wide body means you're not cramped in your seat, and gives space for double aisles so you can move easily around the aircraft. The cabin is tall, as well as wide, and light and airy. The engines are so quiet you can hear an ice-cube drop into your pre-lunch whisky and soda.

Passengers can spread themselves on the

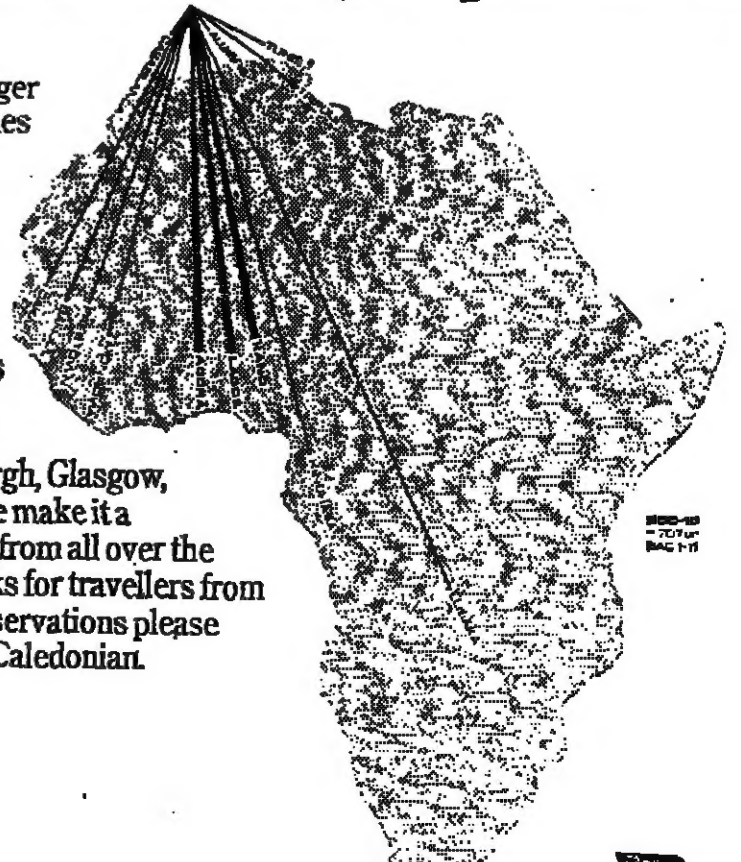
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*On Thursdays a B.Cal 707 departs 23.15 for Lagos.



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OVERSEAS

Uganda orders a close watch kept on Britons and Americans

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, March 13

The Ugandan Government ordered district commissioners, chiefs and other administrators today to watch British and American residents closely. It also threatened to force foreigners to disclose the source of "false information" which it accused them of sending out of the country.

Uganda Radio said pressure would be brought against them if these "false statements" continued to be broadcast by a BBC report that a Ugandan civil aircraft pilot had fled to Britain because he feared for his life in Uganda.

Britons have not lately been threatened in Uganda, but the 100 Americans there were recently ordered to appear before President Amin. This meeting was later cancelled.

Mr Charles Balidawa, the pilot who is reported to be seeking political asylum in Britain, was formerly director of civil aviation for East Africa. He returned to Uganda last year from Nairobi to fly for the state-owned Uganda Airlines.

He was commended for his ability when he force-landed President Amin's plane in southern Sudan with 15 Britons on board last January. Later President Amin ordered an inquiry into the incident and Mr Balidawa gave evidence.

Mrs Mary Nsubuga, wife of the Anglican Bishop of Nami-

rembe, the Rt Rev Dunstan Nsubuga, was said to have died in a car crash on Friday night. The circumstances are not known but President Amin has sent a message of condolence to the bishop.

Request for asylum: Mr Balidawa is expected to apply for political asylum in Britain this week (a Staff Reporter writes).

Mr Balidawa, aged 28, arrived at Stansted airport on February 14 to attend a two-month course for a senior pilot's licence. Later he went to the home in Sussex of former Wing Commander James Cobb, who was training a party of Ugandan girl pilots for President Amin. Mr Cobb said yesterday: "He is no longer with me. I met him as a pilot when I was in Uganda, and he told me of his fears for his safety. So I took him to my home and he stayed here for several days. While he was here, he received a telephone call, supposedly from his wife in Nairobi."

Mr Balidawa's wife and child are reported to have escaped from Uganda and called telephone calls are said to have been used to tell the pilot that his family was safe.

The Home Office said yesterday that Mr Balidawa had been admitted for two months from February 14, and that it had no knowledge of any application from him to stay any longer.



Mrs Margaret Trudeau smiles as she boards her husband's car at Ottawa airport on her return from New York.

Mr Callaghan on 'Amin obsession'

From John Best
Ottawa, March 13

Mr Callaghan said last night that the British people were highly indignant about events in Uganda but it would be a mistake to turn President Idi Amin into the "centrepiece" of the forthcoming Commonwealth conference.

Mr Callaghan is in Ottawa for talks with Mr Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister. He told a press conference that Britain could not decide on its own that President Amin should not attend the meeting of heads of government in June. "We are only the boys."

On the question whether Uganda should be expelled from the Commonwealth, he said that the subjects to be discussed at the London meeting would be determined by the Commonwealth Secretariat. The secretariat was sounding out member countries on how the Uganda question should be handled.

When reporters persisted in pressing him with questions about President Amin, Mr Callaghan told them: "All you are doing is showing him to be the most important person in the world and that is just what he wants." At another point he said: "You seem to have an obsession in Canada about this man."

At the outset of the press conference Mr Callaghan said that public opinion in Britain was highly indignant over what had taken place in Uganda "and condemn it completely. That attitude I reflect."

It would be a great mistake to make President Amin the centrepiece of the Commonwealth conference. Mr Callaghan did not want to see the meeting turned into a circus.

In a television interview today Mr Don Jamieson, the Canadian Minister of External Affairs, said that President Amin's presence at the conference "might very well be so disruptive as to cause the whole exercise to collapse".

He added: "As to what we can do about preventing him from attending, that is not as easy to answer because he has his status as a member of the Commonwealth and he is entitled to attend." In any case President Amin "may not want to leave home for that length of time."

Mrs Margaret Trudeau helped her husband to entertain Mr Callaghan at a dinner last night. She flew into Ottawa earlier yesterday from New York.

Mr Callaghan and his wife returned to London today by Concorde.

Larsen falls farther behind Portisch

Rotterdam, March 13.—Lajos Portisch of Hungary defeated his Danish opponent, Bent Larsen, yesterday to take a 4-2 lead in their 12-game quarter-final in the world chess championship.

In Lucerne, Lev Polugaevsky of the Soviet Union and Henrique Mecking of Brazil drew their fifth game. The Russian now leads 3-2.

In Reykjavik, Boris Spassky, the Soviet former world champion, drew his seventh game with Vlastimil Hort of Czechoslovakia. Spassky is leading 4-3.

Tigran Petrosian, the Soviet former world champion, and Viktor Korchnoi, the Russian emigrant, were level after the early games of their match at Lucca.—AP and Reuters.

Prime Minister tells US it highlights Britain's woes

Continued from page 1

many Americans felt socialism and the welfare state had been "perhaps a catastrophe" for Britain, he retorted: "The welfare state has raised in my experience and in my lifetime in politics the standard of life of the British people to a degree that was unknown when I was young."

The Prime Minister admitted that Britain had a "rundown industrial system"—though some British industries were "as good as anything you've got and a damned sight better than most". But he lamented the "negative" accusation of the "negative" and insisted: "Now there is no doubt we're pulling out" of the recent economic decline.

His questioners were not to be fobbed off. One put to him the often cited British Government report that it took twice as many man-hours to make a car in Britain as in Europe. Did the British Labour indicate that something was radically wrong with "industrial socialism"? Mr Callaghan chose to fight back. "Let me ask about your industries that are in trouble. You haven't got a socialist heck, as you call it, have you? ... Would you care to name some American industries that are in trouble?"

Third World Report

United Nations seeks ways to provide water for a growing population

From Andrew Tarnowski
Buenos Aires

The motto for the first world water conference, which opens in Mar del Plata, Argentina, today, is intentionally provocative: "A generation later may be too late."

It has been chosen by the United Nations organizers of the conference because they fear the world may face a serious water shortage by the end of the century unless conservation measures are taken quickly.

What these measures should be will be discussed by experts from nearly 150 countries over the next two weeks.

The organizers are hoping to make governments realize that water is a valuable product which exists in limited quantities. They also want to underline the point that contamination of rivers and other sources of water is an immediate threat to development in many parts of the world.

The statistics amassed by various United Nations agencies for the delegates are indeed startling. They point out that a third of mankind already lacks secure supplies of drinking water, and by the year 2000 the population of the globe could double.

Although 70 per cent of the earth's surface is covered by water, only 1 per cent of this

is sweet water and 99 per cent of the total reserves is underground. Much lies more than 3,000ft deep. Rivers and lakes, the most readily available sources of water, account for only one hundredth of 1 per cent of the world's water.

Among the problems the delegates will discuss is the careful nursing and fair distribution of these resources.

In the developing countries, 1,200 million people lack adequate access to drinking water, and 1,400 million have no sewage system.

As the world population grows, vast new resources of water will be needed for increased irrigation of farmlands and for the needs of industry, sanitation and human consumption.

At present 80 per cent of the water used in the world goes to irrigation, but the area under cultivation will have to be doubled by the year 2000 if famine is to be avoided, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Irrigation methods, which are sometimes wasteful of water, will have to be improved.

The FAO believes subterranean water can provide a partial solution, particularly if wells are refilled artificially during wet periods. It says 100,000 wells have been drilled in Bangladesh in the past four

years, and another 35,000 in Pakistan.

One pre-conference report says that proper use of rivers and lakes would provide water for half the world's land surface.

Desalination of sea water, solar distillation and cloud seeding to cause rain will also be discussed at the conference, but such methods are generally considered too costly or unreliable.

High on the agenda will be discussion of water as a disease carrier, particularly among children in the developing countries, in some of which insalubrious water has been blamed for 90 per cent of infant mortality.

A report by the World Health Organization says: "It is calculated that world mortality would drop by 80 per cent immediately if it were possible to supply really drinkable water to all the inhabitants of the planet."

The conference comes midway through the United Nations second development decade, during which it is hoped to bring water supplies to the entire urban population of the developing world, and to 25 per cent of its rural population, by 1990.

Among the topics to be discussed is government cooperation in meeting the cost: the rural aspect of the project alone is expected to cost \$6,500m (£3,950m).

Also contained in the complaint filed against Mr Polanski at the time of his arrest were charges of sodomy, oral sex and giving a drug to a minor.

Born in Paris but brought up in Poland, Mr Polanski had a tragic childhood. He saw his Jewish mother taken off to a concentration camp, where she died.

His fame as a director in Europe eventually brought him to Hollywood where he made the highly successful thriller *Rosemary's Baby* about a young girl delivering the Devil's baby. —Reuters.

Moderate phase opens for Palestinians

From Robert Fisk
Cairo, March 13

The Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament in exile, has begun to assume the moderate face expected of it by the Arab nations, in spite of a public refusal to give up the demand for the destruction of Israel.

Behind the ostentatiously tough stand adopted this week-end by official Palestinian spokesmen, it looks as though the Syrian-Egyptian hopes for a Palestinian presence at a Geneva peace conference, a formal association between the Palestinians and Jordan, and an acceptance of a rump Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank will be fulfilled.

The Council's membership has been increased from 183 to about 290—the Palestinians cannot themselves decide on the exact figure. The extra hundred or so members, most of them pro-Syrian Palestinians, showed their strength in this morning's elections for the Council chairman.

Mr Khaled Fahoum, who generally accepts the moderate pan-Arab stand on a future Palestinian state, was re-elected to the chairmanship with 172 votes; Mr Bahjat Abu Gharabia, the candidate of the four "rejectionist" Palestinian groups, picked up only 67.

Mr Mahmoud Labadie, an official spokesman for Mr Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization, said earlier that there would be no change in the National Council's charter, which demands the creation of a secular state in Palestine and the dismantling of the Israeli nation.

Mr Fahoum, while repeating that the charter would not be altered, took a less dogmatic

line in his address to the Council. Using a new vocabulary, he did not refer to the creation of a secular state. Instead he said that the Palestinians would "not throw down arms until sovereignty is established on a free homeland". A free homeland does not mean all of Palestine.

Furthermore, Mr Nayef Hawatmeh, of the Democratic Popular Front, a semi-Communist FLO group favouring moderate views, let it be known this evening that he would be asking for a vote to change the 10-point charter issued by the Council in 1974, which brands King Hussein of Jordan as a "traitor". Such an amendment would be a necessary step before any formal alliance with the Jordanians.

Mr Hawatmeh's group also want the Council to affirm the Palestinians' right to an "independent state" on the West Bank and in Gaza.

The extremist Palestinian delegates appear to have already realized that any plans to upset the general tenor of moderation are likely to be defeated.

In his speech to the Council last night, President Sadat of Egypt criticized President Carter's suggestion that Israeli defence lines might temporarily stretch beyond its legal frontiers after a Middle East settlement.

"The October (1973) war", he said, "proved that any talk about secure borders is no longer logical and to repeat these collapsing theories is null and void. I repeat before you all that we will not cede one inch of our land."

Censorship reimposed

Beirut, March 13.—Lebanon has reimposed newspaper censorship only 24 hours after relaxing some controls, press sources said today.

The sources said the censor's office cancelled an announcement which would have allowed Lebanese newspapers, radio and television to report fight-

ing between Palestinians and Lebanese rightists.

Newspapers would, however, have been expected to exercise self-censorship and the censor's office said only a Government decree could lift all restrictions.

Foreign correspondents have been free of censorship since the end of January.—Reuters.

Mr Rabin defends his visit to Washington

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, March 13

Mr Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, returned from Washington tonight and defended his controversial meetings with President Carter as "positive on the whole". He acknowledged, however, that "not everything was to our liking".

He will report to the Cabinet tomorrow and the Likud opposition has asked for an urgent parliamentary debate.

Likud leaders have alleged that Mr Rabin solicited his Washington invitation as an election gimmick. They say it has harmed Israel's cause because it led to Mr Carter's suggestion at a press conference that Israel's peace borders should be similar to the pre-1967 lines "with minor adjustments".

Mr Carter said the borders would be a matter for decision between the parties concerned, but his statement was held here to undermine Israel's bargaining position in peace talks.

Mr Rabin, questioned at an airport press conference today, said that Mr Carter had not accepted the Arabs' demand for a total withdrawal by the Israelis. "He qualified what he thinks, and he added a new element—the distinction between political boundaries and defensible boundaries", he said.

The Prime Minister said this idea had originally been mooted by Israel "in certain sectors". Apparently he was alluding to the Israeli idea that its forces should maintain a presence at the southern tip of Sinai to defend shipping in the Red Sea, although the territory could be recognized as Egyptian.

William Frankel writes: On his way home to Israel, Mr Rabin briefly stopped in London. He told Anglo-Jewish leaders over breakfast in an airport hotel that "under no circumstances do I see any possibility of negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization". On the question of a Middle East peace conference, he thought it could not be held before the autumn of 1977.



"We have to move exports fast so ECGD cover is vital to us"

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Hollywood director charged with rape

Los Angeles, March 13.—The film director, Roman Polanski, was free on bail today charged with raping a 13-year-old girl.

Mr Polanski, husband of the actress Sharon Tate, who was hacked to death by followers of Charles Manson eight years ago, will appear in court here next Friday. He could face a prison sentence of up to 50 years if he is found guilty.

According to police, the alleged rape took place on Thursday night after a photographic session at the home of the actor, Jack Nicholson, who played the leading role in Mr Polanski's film *Chinatown*.

Involved in the police inves-

tigation of the incident was Mr Nicholson's friend, Angelica Huston, aged 26; daughter of the actor-director, John Huston. She was arrested on suspicion of possessing a small amount of cocaine, which police said they found in her handbag when they raided Mr Nicholson's home. She too was freed on bail.

Mr Nicholson was not in town at the time and police said he was in no way connected with the events.

Police said that a woman had complained that her daughter, aged 13, had been taken to the Nicholson home on the understanding that she was being photographed for the French

edition of *Vogue* magazine. But the mother said, her daughter had been raped.

Also contained in the complaint filed against Mr Polanski at the time of his arrest were charges of sodomy, oral sex and giving a drug to a minor.

Born in Paris but brought up in Poland, Mr Polanski had a tragic childhood. He saw his Jewish mother taken off to a concentration camp, where she died.

His fame as a director in Europe eventually brought him to Hollywood where he made the highly successful thriller *Rosemary's Baby* about a young girl delivering the Devil's baby. —Reuters.

SPORT

Athletics

Britain's small band of gold led by Coe and Miss Colebrook

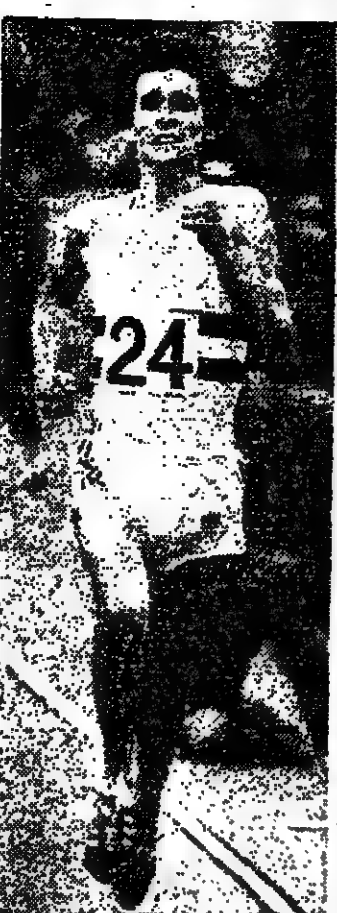
From Cliff Temple
Athletics Correspondent
San Sebastian, March 13

On an afternoon of splendour which British athletes will enjoy for many years to come, our small band of athletes competing in the European indoor championships here today claimed three gold and two silver medals. The golden haul took just 25 minutes of track action, and left a queue of British winners waiting for the soft chair in the interview room. Katrina Jane Colebrook (women's 800 metres) and Mary Stewart (women's 1,500 metres) took it in turn to show the rest of Europe the way home, each in their own style.

Miss Colebrook, over whom perhaps the biggest question mark was hanging, because she qualified for the final only as one of the fastest losers in Saturday's heats, was content to sit in on the field and let them take her through 400 metres in a tiny 55.66 seconds. She made her move well round the last bend to overtake her rivals in the classic style, winning in 2 minutes 11 seconds, and equalling the world indoor record. It has been an astonishing season for Miss Colebrook, 29-year-old Lincolnshire secretary, whose indoor best is still only 2:27.5. "I felt much better than in the heats," she said, "and when I was still with them and feeling comfortable at the bell, I knew I had the chance to win."

Her victory, which has been a highlight of the championships as her own best, semi-final and final in apparent relaxed comfort, was also only just outside the world's best in his event, winning in 1:46.5, a personal improvement of one second. He was delighted to have been able to make the best use of his luck, going hard from the gun to grab the lead at the 200 metres mark. "I'm going to try to make the best use of my strengths," he told me just before the race, and that is what it came down to: strength.

Miss Stewart made her effort with 400 metres left, after the Bulgarian, Tchevdarova, had claimed her semi-final victory. "It went pretty much as I expected," Miss Stewart said. "I had thought about going ahead earlier, but as she did it all for me, what was the point?"



Sebastian Coe: racing maturity

Miss Stewart's winning time of 4:34 was just over a second outside her own indoor world record, but the fact that she had become the third member of her family in 50 years to win a European indoor title will please her more than the time.

Britain's two silver medals came from a couple of previous indoor champions, Geoffrey Capes, in the shot put, and Veronica Elder, in the women's 400 metres. Mrs Elder found that the East German, Maria Koch, who improved her own indoor world record to 51 seconds, had too much speed on the first lap, but held on to take second place in 53.5 sec.

For Arthur Gold, the British Amateur Athletic Board secretary, the championships were a baptism

of fire in his first major meeting since being elected president of the European Athletic Association. Basque separatist demonstrators marched into the arena after the morning's events began and they wanted him to lead them out of the arena. To guarantee their safety in the face of the armed police who stood guard in large numbers outside the stadium, he agreed.

The unexpected disturbance naturally affected performances in the morning events and many athletes found themselves warming up for two hours or more, not knowing when, or even if, they would compete. "That sort of thing wrecks your concentration completely," Geoffrey Capes said, after his silver medal performance in the shot put.

A little-known Icelandic shot putter, 27-year-old Urdan Hallorsen, reached 67ft 6in with his opening effort. It was several feet further than Hallorsen had ever managed before, and, although normally within the range of Capes, it was sufficient to denote him to the silver medal. His best punt, 67ft 11in, came in the second round.

WOMEN'S FINALS: 800 metres: 1. V. Stewart (GB), 4:34; 2. T. Tchevdarova (Bulg), 4:38; 3. M. Koch (GDR), 4:41. 1,500 metres: 1. K. Jane Colebrook (GB), 2:11; 2. M. Stewart (GB), 2:15; 3. M. Koch (GDR), 2:27. 400 metres: 1. V. Elder (GB), 53.5; 2. M. Koch (GDR), 51; 3. V. Elder (GB), 53.5. Shot put: 1. G. Capes (GB), 67ft 6in; 2. A. Gold (GB), 67ft 11in; 3. U. Hallorsen (Iceland), 67ft 6in.

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Rowing

Cambridge register their best yet

By Jim Raiton

It was a curious weekend. London University last night held a Reading, but were moral victors of the event. Cambridge damaged their expensive prototype racing shell on the Tideway, but built some reputation for themselves. London University's objectives are near and far—the Head of the River race in three weeks' time and the national and international circuit ahead. Cambridge's aim is well defined—the Boat Race on Saturday (10) and apart from that little else matters.

Over the weekend Cambridge battled with Tideway Scullers for the second time. When they last met a month ago Cambridge took the day, but achieved their success partly by overruling a crew whom I described at the time as a "Rip Van Winkle" eight. On mid-Saturday morning most of the Tideway Scullers arrived seeking revenge, but unfortunately others still appeared partly in a trance. In brief skirmishes before the main event, Cambridge and Tideway Scullers had already more than the edge.

It took just over seven minutes and a half to reach Putney Bridge, but in that time Cambridge came from almost three-quarters of a length down to place their bows level in three minutes. Within the same time-span Cambridge moved ahead to reach Putney at Putney with an advantage of ten lengths and a half. What must have been encouraging for Cambridge was the fact that they did not need to sprint to achieve their supremacy—an energy-sapping tactic—but overcame the Scullers' crew racing almost stroke for stroke. It was the best Cambridge performance so far and a reassuring note to build on for Saturday's race.

Horton, a Cambridge sculler, carefully wedged his car between the gunnels of the Cambridge boat at the end of the row. It sounded as if the Cambridge boat

had broken in two as his car ripped through the upper framework of the boat while Cambridge wound down under Putney Bridge. The repair might be awkward on their prototype, but that is secondary to the elation Cambridge must have felt. It must have made their weekend bearable after an indifferent week.

Thames Tradesmen, with five of the Grand winning crew at Henley last year, and all members of the national training team, won the Reading Head on Saturday by 25sec over London University. Tradesmen started as a new entry from the fifty-sixth position and rowed in a vacuum leading off that category. London University, too, as head crew, rowed over the course in similar circumstances, and one would have expected that the margin of Tradesmen's victory would have been greater.

Today's entrants: Oxford 12.15 and 3.30; Cambridge 10.30 and 3.30. All from Putney.

Reading Head: 1. Thames Tradesmen 13min 55sec; 2. London University 14min 20sec; 3. Oxford 14min 45sec; 4. Cambridge 15min 10sec; 5. Reading 15min 35sec; 6. Henley 16min 10sec; 7. University of Kent 16min 35sec; 8. University of Essex 17min 10sec; 9. University of Warwick 17min 35sec; 10. University of Manchester 18min 10sec; 11. University of Bristol 18min 35sec; 12. University of Liverpool 19min 10sec; 13. University of Nottingham 19min 35sec; 14. University of Sheffield 20min 10sec; 15. University of York 20min 35sec; 16. University of Leeds 21min 10sec; 17. University of Hull 21min 35sec; 18. University of Birmingham 22min 10sec; 19. University of Newcastle 22min 35sec; 20. University of Cardiff 23min 10sec; 21. University of Swansea 23min 35sec; 22. University of Exeter 24min 10sec; 23. University of Plymouth 24min 35sec; 24. University of Devon 25min 10sec; 25. University of Cornwall 25min 35sec; 26. University of Bath 26min 10sec; 27. University of Bath 26min 35sec; 28. 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as

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

[illegible]

By Richard Streebn

[illegible]

By Gordon Allan

who blew a hole in Northampton's splendid defence and left McKay scored from the back of a line-out Raynould kicked a penalty for Ardaraugh.

In the second half, as in the first, Park's forwards made the success of Northampton in the tight, they were the mainstay of their side. They were no snails in the loose, neither, and the backs ran confidently none more so than Raynould. He was the star of the penalty and Ripley scored his try in injury time, when he well deserved it. Northampton covered the last 30 yards to the corner in half the number of minutes that it took the visitors' players, but with twice the visual effect.

Mason scored Northampton's first try, was on hand for an inside pass after Raynould had kicked ahead and regained the ball. The Ardaraugh scrum through which he rushed gained a beaten pack. Oldham limped off early in the second half. It doubtless is true that they would have had much to do in any case.

ROSSLYN PARK: P. Bate R. Satchell J. McKay A. F. Fredrickson W. H. Thompson, S. G. Smith, C. D. Lloyd-Roberts, J. G. South-Roach, E. Warder.
RIPLEY: N. Turner (Capt.)

NORTHAMPTON: P. Raynould, P. Blundell, J. Oldham (Capt.), D. Osborne, J. G. Mason, W. Kemp, A. Sturges, C. G. Rogers, S. J. Russell.
Referee, Mr. C. Rogers. London.

By Richard Streeton

The Scottish three-quarter line.

The selectors decided that Brown, the massive lock who only returned to the game this week after a 12-week suspension, was a potentially useful fix to the scrum, considered a move expected to be a gruelling occasion. Brown is not even among Scotland's replacements, though he remains, of course, a strong candidate for the Ireland front row.

Ireland who in Dublin on Saturday face a rampant French team on the verge of the grand slam, had a serious setback yesterday when Grace, their captain and bright wing, retired from national duty after a shoulder dislocated in his right knee.

McLaughlan's return brings a

By Nicholas Keith

[illegible]

By Tom Cooban

rather ineffectiveness. The truth was, of course, that they had not the strength in depth which must be expected of a team of champions in the semi-final round. At least they improved enormously on the result of their earlier meeting with Saracens this season—a 5—3 defeat.

Fairclough, a prop forward, scored Saracens' first try in a scramble on the line after Hawkins had broken through the line. Hanson raced down the wing to score behind the posts. More Saracen attacks followed half-time, but the visitors were more satisfied with them until a top penalty saw Riddle break through and send Hanson off on a long run for his second try.

Fyde's determined rally in the final phase put a gloss on the disappointments evident earlier. A well-timed scrum and a magnificent flag by Shorrock ended in a line-out from which Beaumont scored, a success which won particular attention had earlier left the field for treatment to an eye injury. It was Beaumont who in injury time scored the winning try, a small and enabled the half backs to provide an opening from which Shorrock was able to send Wilding to the touch.

RYLES, G. Fisher, D. Perkins, D. Shorrock, I. Greenhalgh, G. Williams, J. Dwyer, J. Crowder, W. Beaumont, R. Fyde, J. Riddle, J. Hanson, J. Mackenzie.

SARACENS: W. Phillips, G. Hanson, J. Mackenzie, J. Crowder, D. Shorrock, J. Hawkins, G. Dwyer, G. McGregor, J. Riddle, D. Harrison, A. Keay, R. Fyde.

Referee: D. M. Robinson (Berkshire).

John Player Cup

[illegible]

front row reunion

raine (Hawick) FP; W. E. B. B.
 Lawrence (Edinburgh) Wanderer;
 J. M. Renwick (Hawick), A. G.
 Crawford (Hawick), D. Shedder
 West of Scotland; I. R.
 Macintosh (Hawick) Captain;
 W. Morgan (Stewart's Melville
 FP); J. MacLachlan (Jordanhill),
 D. F. Madsen (Gosforth), A. E.
 Carmichael (West of Scotland),
 A. Barrie (Hawick), A. F.
 MacLennan (Glasgow) Captain;
 A. Biggar (London Scottish), D. S. M.
 MacDonald (London Scottish),
 W. S. Watson (Boroughmuir).
 Replacements: B. H. Hay
 Boroughmuir, R. Wilson (Lon-
 don Scottish), R. Laidlaw
 Jedforest, C. D. Fisher (Water-
 loo), J. Aitken (Gala), A. J. Tomes
 Hawick).

By John Karter

Midnight Court (right) takes the last level with Approaching (third) before winning Sandown's Beech Steeplechase.

the Benson and Hedges Hurdle there a few years ago could ever forget it. In the valuable Imperial Cup on Saturday it was another Fred Winter-trained horse, Acquaint, who swooped like a marauding hawk to snatch the spoils from Hardy Turk. Nick Henderson rode a fine

From an Irish Racing

hurdle tomorrow, has been
 surprisingly consistent novice hur-
 dler who for the first time was
 racing over a distance like
 that of the Irish. When he
 shipped at Nags he failed by only
 a short head to give 10th to Fin-
 Duke.
 There is a strong likelihood
 that Irish runners will fill the first
 two places in the National Hunt
 Steeplechase over four miles. Our
 Irish runners have been in the
 Mount Prague have both been
 running prominently in useful
 novice company and will be much
 to watch at home in the
 premier for Mount Prague.
 whose jumping is particularly sal-
 and who finished second
 to Sand Pit at Clonmel. He will be
 a strong contender with the
 Irish system champion and

2.15 CARCLUE HURDLE (Handicap : £676 : 2m)

[illegible]

11.30 EGMANTON HURDLE (Div 1: part 1: novices: £340: 2m)

[illegible]

1.0 LANGFORD STEEPLECHASE (Div II: maidens: £611: 2m

[illegible]

2.0 EGMANTON HURDLE (Div 1 : part III : novices : 5340 : 2m)

[illegible]

Ayr selections

By Our Racing Staff
2.15 Sea Hadrig. 2.45 Tommy Joe. 3.15 Superb Sam. 3.45 Byzantium.
4.15 Donohill. 4.45 Tangles Brother.

3.0 OSSINGTON STEEPLECHASE (Handicap : £796 : 3m 110yds)

[illegible]

3.30 LANGEFORD STEEPLECHASE (Div. III; maiden; 561)

2m 74(s)					
0-00000	Barclay Larex, J.	Progguk, T-11-11			
0-00000	Cumlishall Miss, A.	Krupp, T-11-11			
0-0000	Faye Motlen, D.	Nicholson, S-11-12			
0-0000	Gene Walcott				
1-00000	Heishere, Mrs. Sly	S-11-12			
0-40000	Myron Lodge, S.	Norman, S-11-12			
0-00000	Quintin E. Hall				
0-00000	Shirley's Darling, L.	Warufo, S-11-12			
0-00000	Telsh, A. Fisher	S-11-12			
0-00000	Walter E. Hall				
0-4-340	Scarlet Lodge, R.	Price, S-11-12			
0-00000	Scarlet Lodge, 100-30	Gone Wallabuto, 4-1-10			
0-00000	Scarlet Lodge, 100-30	Gone Wallabuto, 4-1-10			

4.0 DANETHORPE HURDLE (Handicap : 1995 : 21m)

[illegible]

12-0000	Miss Kila (C-D), A. W. Jones, 3-10-2	A. K. Taylor
000000	Night School, Lora Moxley, 3-10-2	R. F. Day
023104	Bright Comet, B. Richmond, 3-10-2	K. McCann

0-00000	Tudorhead, R.	Bower, G-100	Andrews
000000	Sliver, C-100	0-1000	Mrs. J. Andrews
000000	My Ribber, R.	Richmond, 6-10-0	M. O'Brien
000000	Lerazze, J.	Harden, 1-10-0	N. N. N.
000000	0-1000	0-1000	N. N. N.
000000	Mamman, S.	Calc, 11-10-0	R. N. N.
000000	10-10	Calc, 12-10-0	A. N. N.
0-0 Davidson	10-10	Calc, 12-10-0	A. N. N.
0-0 In Vision	10-10	Calc, 12-10-0	A. N. N.

0-30 EGMANTON HURDLE (Div P: part I: novices: £340: 2nd
040000 Beau Sovereign, 5, Lat, 7-11-10
000000 Broken Shards, H. Littlewood, 6-11-10
000000 Kandyloft, O.'Neill, 5-11-10
000000

Arctic Princess. D. Nicholson. 5-11-7 Sutter
Birkenshaw. D. Claydon. 5-11-7 Wallins
Emma's Fury. S. Underhill. 5-11-7 Webb

1	000	French Art. W. Wharfin	3-11	B. Gray
2	000	Mal. Hul. W. Wharfin	3-11	B. Gray
3	00000-0	Mal. Hul. W. Wharfin	3-11	B. Gray
4	000	Gajarata	3-11	B. Gray
5	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
6	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
7	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
8	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
9	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
10	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
11	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
12	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
13	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
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39	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
40	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
41	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
42	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
43	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
44	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
45	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
46	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
47	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
48	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
49	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray
50	000	Phanang Lad	3-11	B. Gray

Mr. C. Cumall	3-11-7	Mr. C. Cumall
P. Tu	3-11-7	P. Tu
J. Suther	3-11-7	J. Suther

[illegible]

000000 Mr G. Verpette

Southeast selections

by Our Racing Staff.

11.30 Bee in Bonnet. 12.0 Shucker. 12.20 Arabella Swift. 1.0 Hill and
3.30 Blackwin. 2.0 Blay. 2.30 Sils Mams. 3.0 Quick Reckon. 3.30
4.0 Crack O'Doon. 4.30 Matra Hul. 5.0 Jacko. 5.30
Space Talk.

by Our Newmarket Correspondent.

2.0 Poste Royale. 12.30 Arabella Swift. 5.0 Bohn Grange.

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The Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund are behind Industrial Investment

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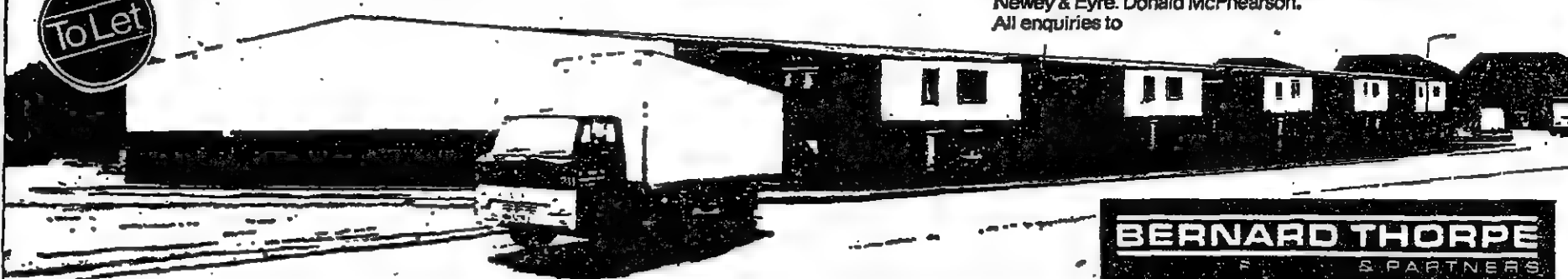
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BASINGSTOKE Hants West Ham and Thornycrofts Industrial Estates

To Let

Location Basingstoke is an ideal location for industrial development being within easy reach of London, 48 miles and Southampton 31 miles. The Estates lie approximately 2 miles from junction 6 on the M3 motorway.

The Developments 30 acres of land are now being developed for industry. On offer are industrial sites from 1 to 10 acres for purpose built factory units. An existing refurbished factory of 27,000sqft. 5 new warehouse units of 10,000sqft. A future development of 5,000sqft factory units. Some existing tenants: Johnson & Johnson, Eatons, Newey & Eyre, Donald McPherson. All enquiries to



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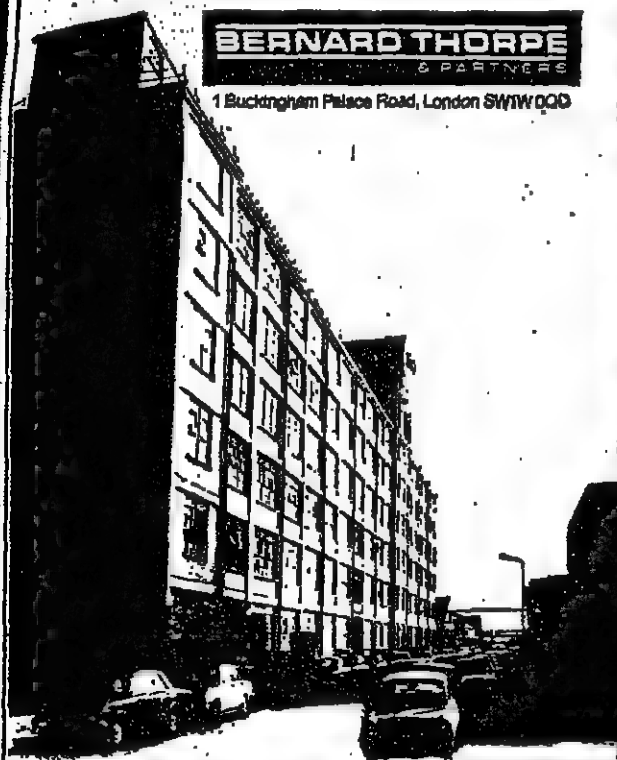
HAYES Middlesex Enterprise House

To Let

This is a mixed economy multi storey factory and warehouse block which is run by the Post Office Pension Fund in the centre of Hayes. It is primarily geared to the small industrial user on reasonable market terms and provides the starter unit for many firms going into business for the first time, thereby creating the seeds of future industrial growth. The building comprises 180,000sqft most of which is let to 20 different tenants. Currently available are two units of 3100sqft and 6100sqft. All enquiries to

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PERIVALE Perivale Industrial Estate

To Let

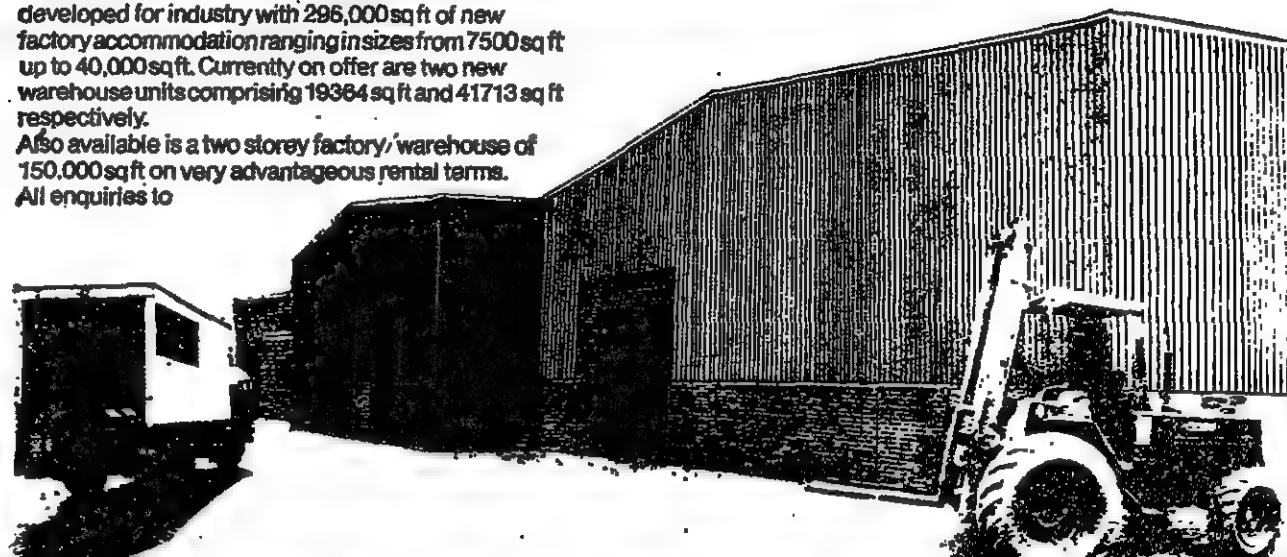
Location The Perivale Industrial Estate is probably situated in one of the finest locations in West London with very good access to Central London, Heathrow airport and the motorways M4, M3, M1 and M40.

The Development 14 acres of industrial land are to be developed for industry with 296,000sqft of new factory accommodation ranging in sizes from 7500sqft up to 40,000sqft. Currently on offer are two new warehouse units comprising 19364sqft and 41713sqft respectively. Also available is a two storey factory/warehouse of 150,000sqft on very advantageous rental terms. All enquiries to

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MILTON KEYNES Bucks Mount Farm Employment Area

To Let

Location Milton Keynes is strategically placed being less than 50 miles from London and Birmingham via the M1 motorway.

The Development The Mount Farm Employment Area covers some 70 acres. This development is an extension to the existing Estate, and it is being

carried out by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation with finance provided directly by the Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund. The following factory/warehouse units are available.

1 x 3720sqft 1 x 4580sqft 3 x 6320sqft
2 x 4610sqft 1 x 6120sqft 4 x 7290sqft

All enquiries to

BERNARD THORPE & PARTNERS

1 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0DD

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WINCHESTER Hants Bar End Industrial Estate

To Let

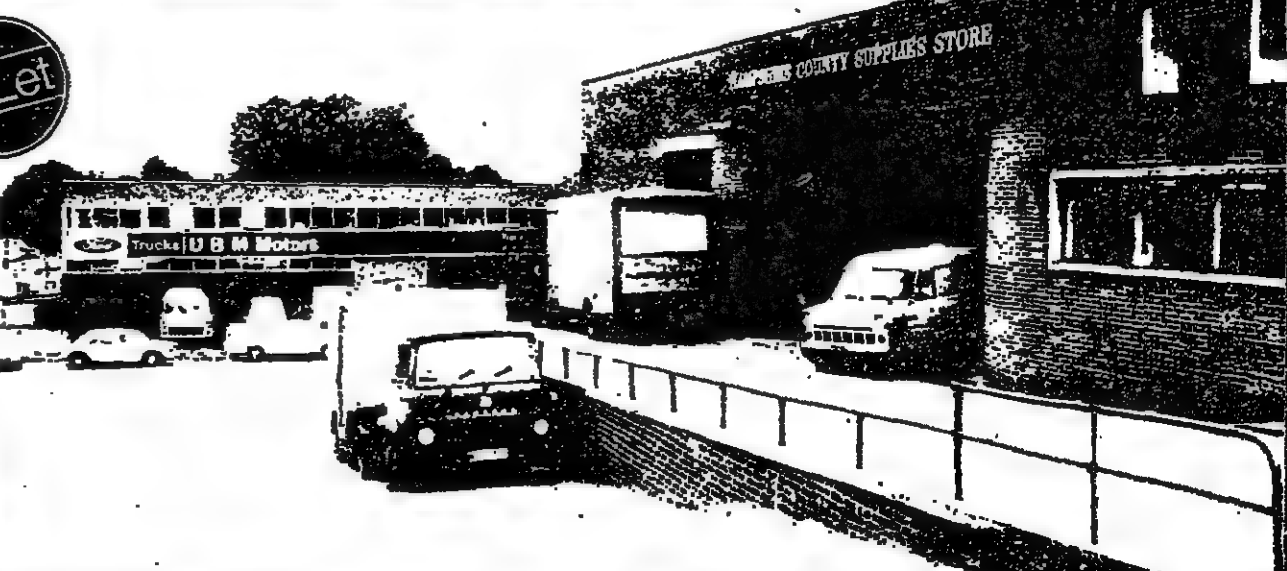
Location The estate adjoins the A33 London/Southampton trunk road (to be upgraded as part of the M3 extension) thereby affording fast access to Southampton, Basingstoke and London.

The Development Three new warehouse units are to be constructed on the estate, which already has existing tenants such as UBM and Hampshire County Council. The units on offer comprise 20180sqft, 16834sqft and 21302sqft. All enquiries to

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HAYDOCK Lancs Yewtree Trading Estate

To Let

Location Haydock is situated in a unique distribution location in the North West with access to a network of motorways and trunk roads linking Manchester & Liverpool with Scotland, the Midlands, London, the South East Yorkshire and the North-East of England.

The Development The Post Office Superannuation Pension Fund have provided finance to the development group Rush & Tompkins for the creation of a 40 acre distribution complex to provide 800,000sqft of accommodation of which 550,000sqft has been constructed and fully let. Fully serviced sites of up to 7 acres are currently available for purpose built units. All enquiries to

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Profits and the Union Jack are still flying high in Hongkong

17th largest exporting country in the world, and a leading commercial, banking and communications centre in Asia.

In Hong Kong, and the other cities on the eastern seaboard where China and the West can meet to do business peacefully, profitably and without political embarrassment or objectionable local controls are Singapore, Tokyo, Manila and Hong Kong.

Hanoi, Guangzhou, Dikarua and Sydney. There is no doubt where China could do business with the outside world, and enjoy the benefits of untrammelled capitalism with an ideological clear conscience.

The last consideration is a great importance. Hong Kong is one of the few places in the world where a laissez-faire economy is allowed to work and works successfully. Free trade, free enterprise and free money exchange could well be introduced from Apat from Hong Kong.

Liquor, tobacco, oil and there are no customs duty; purchase tax of VAT, and profits tax is only 17 per cent. Income tax is 18.15 per cent.

It works. Peking knows it works, and it must know that it works. It must know that if it opens up Hong Kong to the rest of China, Peking could possibly permit a laissez-faire

In part, why the leftist trade unions in the colony are no militant.

Britain is no longer a threat and the much-liked and respected governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, a diplomat, former administrator, is fully aware that the colony's survival depends upon the relationship with China. He can be no less aware that a discreet Peking administration operates alongside his own. Aware from the start that the colony's numerous Chinese staff, traders, corporations, there are men on the staff of the New Chinese News Agency here who keep a sharp and knowledgeable eye on what goes on.

There is why some officials believe that the recent collapse of Hongkong is not indicative of rational men in Peking, and why the year 1977 could be of little importance. Some changes mutually acceptable to the three partners, China, the people of Hongkong and Britain, might be made, but, but, but, no rational reason why Hongkong should not continue to flourish well into the next century.

This confidence seems to be

with the return of Taiwan they must surely want to expunge the last traces of colonialism.

Well-informed people in and outside of the colonial administration think otherwise. Their view is that Hong Kong should be well founded, but there are obviously three qualifications.

First, the governance of China must remain in the hands of pragmatic men who remember Mr Chou En-lai as their mentor. Secondly, if foreign investments in Hongkong is to continue, Peking should give some indication of its intentions before the mid-eighties. No need is seen for formal agreement. The oblique suggestion that the future of Macau was settled would probably be enough.

Thirdly, Britain should be as willing as is China to put ideological questions aside, and ponder the future in terms of its own interests and those of the people of Hongkong. There is no reason for it to be more and less colonial than Peking, and it has much to gain if it is as pragmatic as Peking. It has a duty to the people of Hongkong. It also has much to learn from them, but more of that in a second report.

Louis Heren

report included an observation that the second child, George Guttridge, the second heard had become flattened through constant weight-carrying.

Now, from Oxford, I learn that flat-topped heads, characterized by what scientists call "brachycephaly," were as old as the Bronze Age in Cyprus. Excavations at Kition (near present-day Larnaca) have uncovered adult female skeletons with this deformity.

Schwartz, in comments that such deformations were deliberately induced in infancy by binding the child to an ill-shaped cradle board (see illustration), which would flatten the top of the infant's soft skull, so that the child could carry heavy objects more easily. Modern medical and ethical opinion would presently rule out the device for recording market porters.

Sinister things are afoot in Dorling, Surrey, where a firm advertising in Compromising magazine has recruited a young grammar to join "a small friendly team who are among the world leaders in World Penetration." Among the activities of this "team" are "advertising," "engaging," "adulterance," "adulterance," "adulterance." A case for Dr. Who?

PHS

هكذا من الأسماء

FLORIDA

a Special
Report

Late start gives chance to learn from past

by Patrick Brogan

Florida is a state of mind. For the inhabitants of the rest of the Union, it is a long sandbank dripping down from Georgia, with exotic vegetation and a perfect climate. Every girl in the frozen north dreams of a Florida sunset, every child dreams of Disney World, everyone dreams of Cape Kennedy and the Apollo adventure and it is well known that good Americans, before they die, go to Florida.

It looks different to people who live there. Old-established natives of the place (people who have been there more than 10 years) note with astonishment the changes they have seen. Miami will soon have a Spanish-speaking majority. Tampa is becoming an important industrial zone, growing at enormous speed. Florida, they say, will be the second most populous state in the Union by the year 2000 (after California) and is already setting an example to the world in protecting the environment in its size. It covers 54,000 sq miles (England covers 30,000 sq miles) with a population of 8,500,000. There is thus plenty of room for growth.

Like everywhere else, Florida has suffered from the recession. Its costs are lined with blocks of flats, unsold or uncompleted. Things are now looking up and the state confidently expects the fast rate of expansion of earlier years to be resumed. This is where the Governor, Mr. Reuben Askew, and his administration, and that of his successor in 1979, will face their most serious challenge.

It is all very well to protect the environment and control growth during a recession. It is quite another thing to face the full flood of an American boom and protect the air, the waters, the beaches and the farmlands from destruction.

Mr Askew is confident that it can be done. Laws are not enough because exemptions can always be made but there are stringent laws on the books to protect the environment and commissions to control expansion. The main thing is the people, and Mr Askew says that all Florida now shares his concern for the environment.

ing and enduring reminder of one of the great wrongs of American history.

Florida is fortunate in that it started growing on this scale fairly recently and can thus see the mistakes made by California the golden. It will be some time before Tampa-St Petersburg catches up with Los Angeles and it thus has the opportunity to do things rather better than that city.

It can also learn from its own mistakes. The great boom area of the 1950s and 1960s was Miami, particularly Miami Beach, where the lure of profits was irresistible and the hotels and the jointly owned flats, known as condominiums, were built up to the water's edge. When the construction was finished and the place completely ruined, others took warning.

Fort Lauderdale, up the coast, has a wide and beautiful beach and keeps the buildings across the road behind it. It therefore prospers while Miami Beach is beginning to look very run-down.

Florida is also fortunate in its size. It covers 54,000 sq miles (England covers 30,000 sq miles) with a population of 8,500,000. There is thus plenty of room for growth.

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He is probably right, at least as far as a majority of Floridians are concerned.

Everyone can see what happens when the developers are allowed a clear run and there have been so many scandals, and so many innocent (or foolish) people have lost their savings, that further development in Florida, at least for the next few years, will probably be adequately controlled.

It is 1,000 miles from Pensacola to Miami. Senator Lawton Chiles walked it in 1970 to win the Democratic primary (and then the election), showing his concern with everybody in the state. The western strip of Florida, along the Gulf coast, is swampy, and an extension of southern Alabama and Georgia. It also has the reputation of being one of the last strongholds of American racism.

'Pork-chopper' period at an end

Much of northern and central Florida is forest (more than half the state is forested) and is not heavily populated. This was the area which dominated Florida politics until the courts ordered congressional and state assembly districts reapportioned according to population. The northern bosses were known as the "pork-choppers", as opposed to the "lamb-choppers" of the south, because of an alleged difference in taste between the people of the two areas.

The pork-choppers resisted reapportionment as long as they could (one-man-one-vote became a reality only in 1972), but their era of Florida politics is now as remote as the world of Scarlett O'Hara. Central and southern Florida now dominate the state.

Jacksonville, on the north east coast, has a population of 500,000 and is one of the largest cities in the world (840 sq miles) because it annexed its suburbs and the countryside. It is one of Florida's main growth points, but is none the less eclipsed by Tampa, Orlando and Miami.

The citrus groves begin in central Florida, and stretch for scores of miles in every direction. Then come the

vegetable fields which are rivalled in North America only by California.

On the east coast, Tampa-St Petersburg have between them a population of 1,250,000 or so and are now the main centres of industrial growth in Florida. Orlando, in the centre of Florida, is the agricultural capital of the state, and also the home of Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy.

Down most of the length of the east coast of Florida run a series of sand bars and islands. The best known of them is Miami Beach, which is covered with parks, including most of the island of Key Biscayne immediately south of Miami Beach, where President Nixon had his "southern White House".

At the tip of the peninsula they run off in a series of islands 150 miles south and west into the Caribbean. The last of them is Key West, and although the first few keys are commercialized and depressing, the ones further out have been protected by strict zoning laws and preservation orders. They are very beautiful.

They are linked by a causeway, originally built for a railway, and it is one of the most spectacular drives in the United States. One of the bridges is seven miles long.

By the time Mr Chiles reached Key West he had won so much favourable publicity that he had assured his victory in the Democratic primary. At the same time a little-known state legislator from Pensacola, Mr Reuben Askew, won the Democratic nomination for governor on the novel platform that corporations ought to pay taxes, that government ought to be honest and that Florida should have effective land-use legislation.

He and Mr Chiles were both elected and a new era in Florida politics began. Mr Askew got his programme through the legislature and won easy reelection in 1974 (he cannot run a third time and there is a brisk fight gathering way to succeed him in 1978).

The Governor supported using, at a time when Mr George Wallace was the state's favourite politician, and has enforced "sunshine laws" in the state government, which ensure that

every meeting of legislative committees is open to the press.

He represented the New South and was often mentioned as a possible vice-president or even president. He chose not to run, however, which was probably fortunate because another New South governor, Mr Jimmy Carter of Georgia, also elected in 1970, had ambitions of his own.

The relations between the two are a matter of much curiosity. They were not friends in the days when Mr Carter was Governor of Georgia. It is said that Mr Carter missed no opportunity of upstaging his fellow-governors, including Mr Askew, and that they did not like it.

Mr Askew conspicuously did not support Mr Carter during the Florida primary a year ago. In fact he supported Senator Henry Jackson, though not warmly enough to make much difference. The election was one of the crucial events in Mr Carter's march to the White House. He was running against Mr Wallace and if he had lost, his campaign would have ended there and Mr Ford would probably still be President.

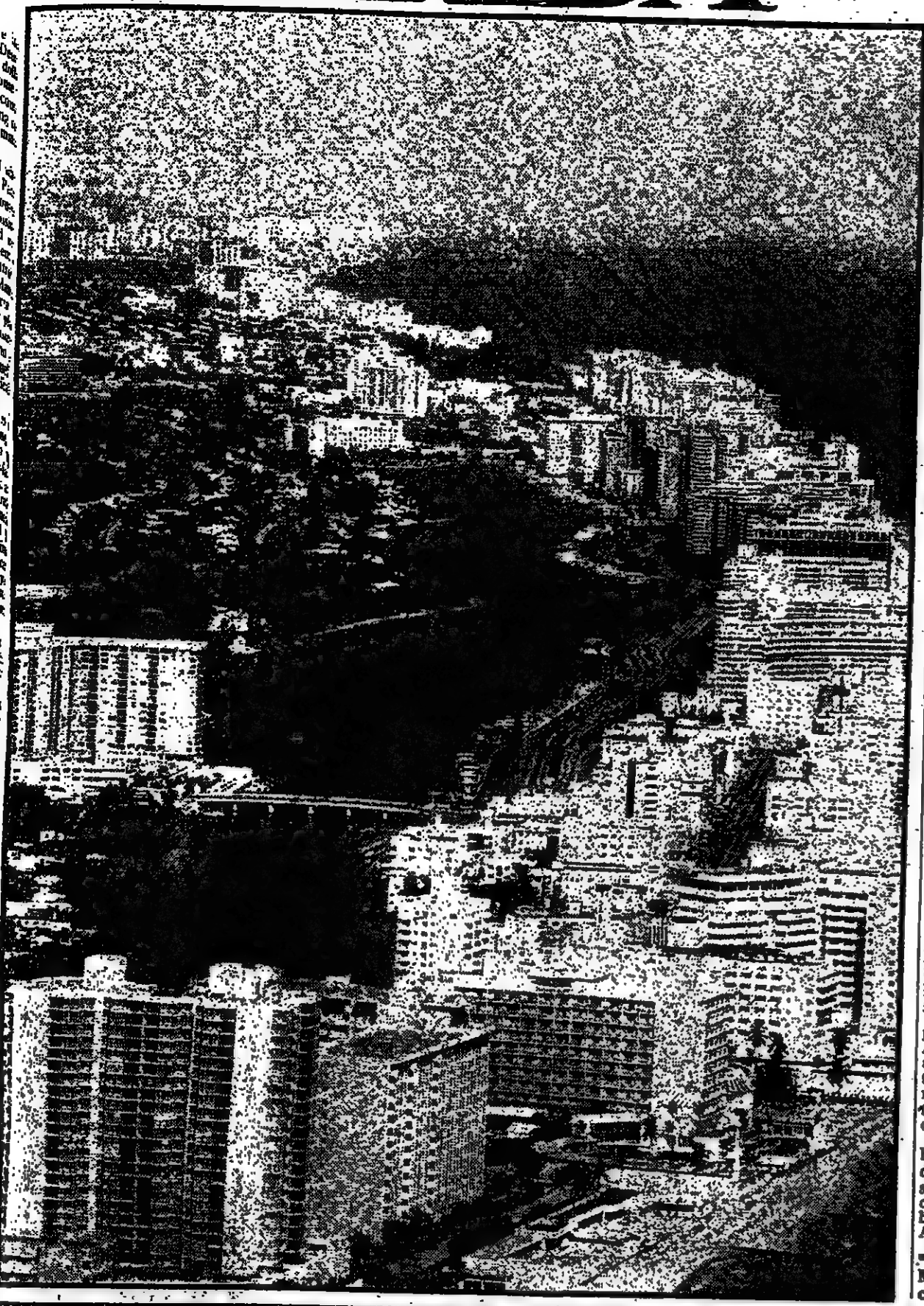
Florida's liberal Democrats supported Mr Carter not because they loved him, although many came to do so later, but because he was the best bet to defeat Mr Wallace. He had just suffered a serious defeat in the Massachusetts primary and needed all the support he could get.

So Governor Askew's coolness was ill received. Mr Carter won 34 per cent of the vote, Mr Wallace 31 per cent and Senator Jackson 24 per cent. However, the President seems to have forgiven and forgotten and has appointed Mr Askew to be chairman of a committee to examine the qualification of people nominated to ambassadorships.

Florida, with a Democratic Governor and two Democratic senators, has thus mended its bridges with Washington. Coping with the recession and the weather is not so easy.

The year began badly with high unemployment, a continuing recession in construction, a frost which caused severe damage to the tomato crop and hurt the citrus fruits, and a vote by the City Council of Miami

continued on page 14



Miami Beach, a sand bar covered with cement.

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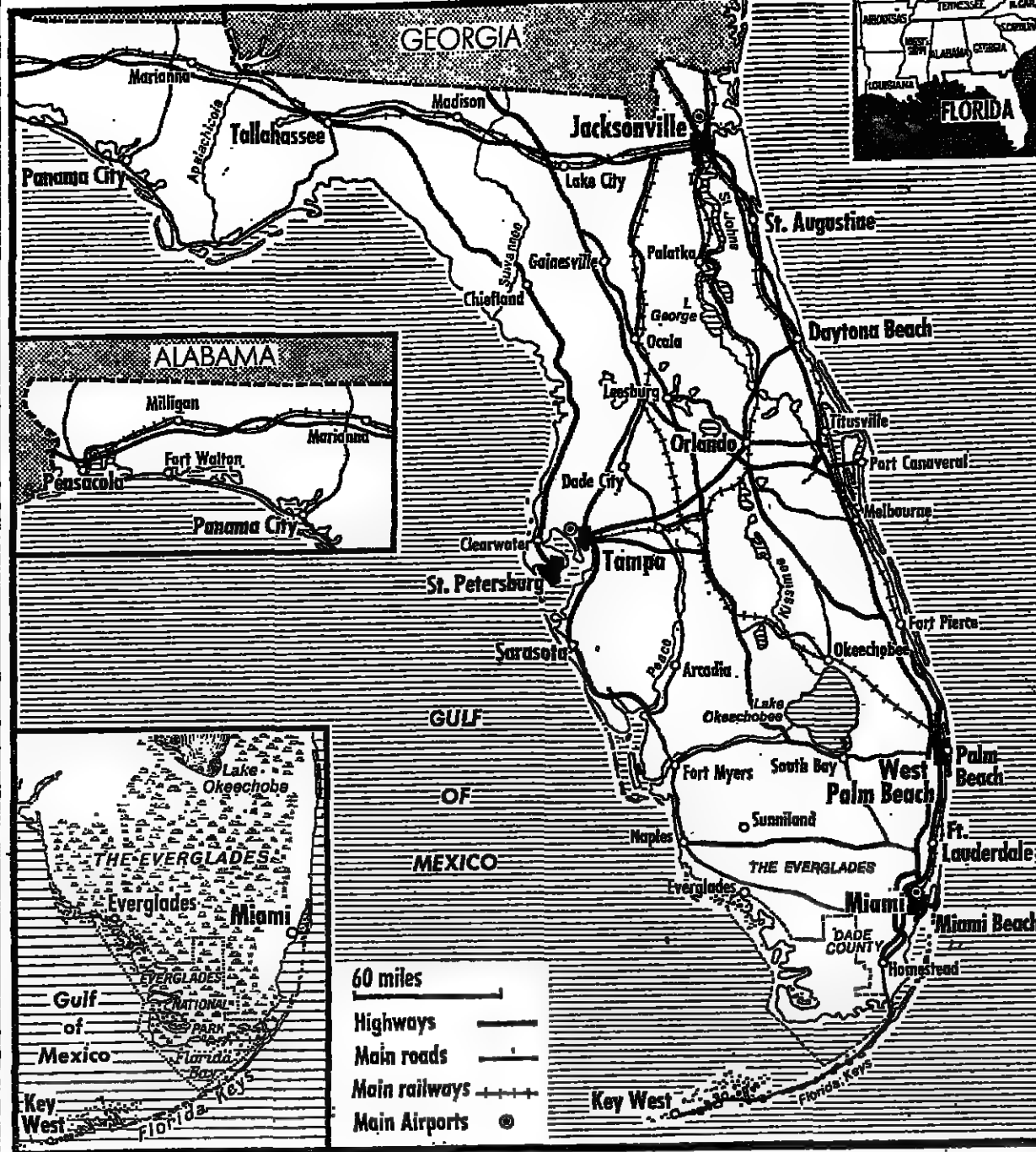
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From swamps to riches

by Patrick Brogan

Florida was bought by the United States from Spain in 1821 for \$5m. The Spaniards had controlled it on and off for 300 years without deriving any benefit from it. Their most notable contribution to Florida's history was the extermination of most of its indigenous Indians. They left a few place names, including Cape Canaveral, St. Augustine and some earthworks with some of those astonishing examples of heroism and endurance which marked the history of the Conquistadores in Florida.

Francis Bagnon founded a colony in northern Florida and were massacred by the Spaniards in 1565. The British acquired it in 1763, after the Seven Years War, but found no particular use or profit in it and returned it to Spain in 1783 after losing the 13 colonies. Neither French nor British left any mark at all on Florida.

Spain sold Florida because it could not be defended against the United States and because it was not worth defending. Florida is a modern creation. Until the nineteenth century its inhabitants lacked the technology, the investment and the manpower to exploit its swamps and sandbanks were too much for the Spaniards.

Their attempts to conquer it were romantic enough,

however, and Mrs Jahoda describes them with verve and skill. But they belong to the state's prehistory; the real history of the place begins with Andrew Jackson and the Seminole wars.

The Seminole Indians are a branch of the Creeks, who were some of the most advanced of North American Indian tribes, and lived in Alabama and Georgia until driven out by the Americans. Some took refuge in Florida and changed their name. In due course, President Jackson decreed that they should follow their cousins to Oklahoma.

The second Seminole war lasted from 1835 to 1842 and cost \$40m and an untold number of lives. The Seminole chief was Osceola, now rightly remembered as a hero, who was finally captured and left to die in a cell. Most of the Seminoles were killed, captured or surrendered and the survivors deported westward.

A small band retreated into the very depths of the Everglades and survived. Their descendants are still there, living in poverty and, according to Mrs Jahoda, keeping the flames of resistance alight.

Then came the settlers to drain the swamps and clear the land. Mrs Jahoda paints a marvellous picture of the process, the cycle of boom and bust in the real estate market, the collapse of the

1920s following a winter's frost, the splendours of Palm Beach, before the last war the richest playground for the richest of Americans, the astonishing story of Miami.

The book is one of a series conceived to mark the Bicentennial with one volume on the history of each of the states. It is well-written, entertaining and informative. It is true that Mrs Jahoda is lucky in her state: it would be very difficult to write a dull history of Florida.

She mentions one worthy effort, however, a book about Palm Beach published 10 years ago which never mentioned the Kennedy family. Joe Kennedy had a large estate there and his sons frequently visited his Fountain of Youth. He found it neither, but a large part of today's population have found acceptable alternatives, and a still larger portion of citizens of more northerly and cooler states believe that those mangrove places are still to be found in Florida.

The state's history has taken a new departure since the last war, with a rapid growth in population and wealth. Florida now seems destined to become one of the most populous and richest of the states in the union within a decade — a result which would have surprised the Spaniards and other early settlers who found its swamps and insects, its Indians and its hurricanes, its inhospitable.

There are Greek spring-dancers on the west coast, Yiddish-speaking refugees from eastern European pogroms ending their days on the Gold Coast, and gentlemen of Sicilian antecedents interested in the hotel business in Miami Beach. When a Senate committee tried to

investigate the Mafia's involvement with the CIA in attempts to have Dr Castro murdered, one key witness was found shot in his basement in Chicago and the other, Mr John Rosselli, was fished up at sea, in a barrel, off the coast of Florida.

Thus does nature outdo art. By and large, however, Florida has had a peaceful existence since the Seminole war (it played only a peripheral role in the Civil War, although it seceded like the rest of the South) and violence has come from hurricanes more often than from political or criminal disputes.

Ponce de Leon, the first European to set foot in North America since the Vikings, came to Florida in 1513 seeking Eldorado or the Fountain of Youth. He found neither, but a large part of today's population have found acceptable alternatives, and a still larger portion of citizens of more northerly and cooler states believe that those mangrove places are still to be found in Florida.

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Big plans to expand transport

by Frank Vogl

Communications within Florida by road, rail and air, and transportation from Florida to the rest of the United States and to South America, are outstandingly good. The state has almost 1,000 miles of high quality motorways. It has 14 deep-water ports, it is served by an extensive rail system and it boasts many good airports. Miami airport is one of the busiest in the United States and Tampa's airport is among the most modern in the world.

Big expansion programmes are either underway or being planned in almost all of the state's transportation areas and perhaps these more than anything else attest to the real confidence about the future growth of the state's commercial base which now exists in Florida.

For example, Mr Frank Clevins of the Tampa Port Authority outlined to me a vast expansion programme for the port, which has seen an increase of 365 per cent in tonnage handled in the past 15 years. This port has just started a six-year programme, costing about \$120m, to widen the channels to 43ft from 34ft.

It is likely to have a new roll-on, roll-off pier completed by the end of this year. Plans are set for new facilities for Tampa's fishing fleet; work is about to start on a \$23m dry dock with an expanded wet dock for repairs in progress; and land reclamation plans are set to expand the port's general cargo facilities, which already include two modern 100,000 sq ft areas.

Tampa handles more tonnage than any other port in the state (41 million tons in 1975, which was 26 per cent of the total for Florida ports). It is eighth in size in the United States and fourth for export business. It is bound to grow rapidly, especially as it is the closest port to the Panama Canal and because of the potential expansion of trade between the United States and South America.

World's largest cruise ship port

Jacksonville's port is the second largest in Florida and also has plans for great expansion. It is already the most important container cargo port in the state. Port Everglades, which like the others has substantial expansion plans, is the leading seaport in the state. It boasts of being the largest cruise ship port in the world, having handled more than a million passengers in the past fiscal year.

Competition between the airlines serving Florida is intense. On the east coast routes the leading rivals are National, Delta and Eastern, and National has a slight advantage because of its international route network, notably its direct London-to-Miami schedule. Mr J. Dan Brock, National's marketing vice-president, says that Miami is going to grow rapidly as a gateway for travellers from the United States and South America to Europe. His company and the state's airport authorities are evidently planning for such an expansion, and National has already applied for more routes to Europe.

Mr Brock notes that National is smaller than Delta and Eastern. "So we feel we have to move faster and offer better service," he says. Among special services provided by National are its packages linking travellers to cruise holidays by way of the port of Miami.

National and Delta have modern fleets serving the main airports of the state, and some of the remoter parts are served by a combination of their own airlines. Florida has 350 airports, and 24 of these have scheduled airline services.

Any judgement regarding which of the leading airlines offers the best service must be highly subjective. Having flown recently on each of the three, I would rank Delta clearly in first place, but so fierce is the competition, the traveller is mostly well served whichever he chooses.

Mr Brock sees immense business growth in South America for Florida's economy, as do many other businessmen in the state. The development plans now under way certainly make Florida a state from which the business executive can travel easily to almost any point on the globe.

Playground of the masses

by Sydney Paulden

From being the playground of the wealthy, Florida is now in the mass entertainment market and could well become the next important area for exploitation by European package tour operators.

Hotels in Florida used to open for the four winter months, to accommodate the well-funded globetrotters in search of guaranteed sunshine, but now more than 27 million tourists visit the state annually. In some areas the seasonal fluctuation has all but disappeared, with only May and September lying low on the graphs.

The biggest single cause of the change was the opening in 1971 of Disney World at Orlando (not to be confused with the original Disneyland in California). The 27,000-acre site copes with as many as 60,000 visitors a day during school holidays and has its own hotels, including one with a monorail. Other hotels, motels and tourist attractions, are springing up alongside Disney World. The Orlando Hyatt Hotel World, with its 60-key electronic bedroom locks and its 10 swimming pools, illustrates how the big hotel and entertainment groups are cashing in on the Disney attraction. Dotted round the hitherto unremarkable Orlando landscape are a Hilton, a Sheraton, the Stars

Hall of Fame Waxworks, the Mystery Fun House, the Circus World and the Sea World. One hour's drive to the east, the John F. Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral has 16,000 visitors a day to view the rockets, space capsules and launching pads made familiar by television.

Orlando has been very much a national playground for motorists from other states. Now, however, Orlando airport has been granted international status and is preparing to welcome direct flights from overseas.

The second factor to have an impact on Florida tourism was the energy crisis of 1973. Petrol costs rose and a 55 mph speed limit was placed on all roads in the United States. That effectively cut the southern and most traditional tourist area of Florida off from many who drove down to Disney World. Fewer and fewer did the extra 400 miles to Miami. The result is that although the figures for the state showed an increase in 1975 over 1974, from 25 million tourists to 27 million, who spent \$5,100m instead of \$6,700m, Miami and Miami Beach recorded a decline in the number of visitors in both those years.

The picture for the southern tip of Florida is not all gloom. There has been an upsurge in the number of visitors flying into Miami from Latin American countries. They came in hundreds of thousands rather than in millions, but they spent money out of

all proportion to their numbers. Whereas the average American holiday-maker spends \$50 a stay in that area, his Latin American counterpart spends \$1,000.

"We have had as many as 28,000 Brazilians here in a single month", the Miami Tourist Office says. Their spending power is confirmed by Captain Robert Waldron, director of the port of Miami: "When 700 or 800 people come off one of the cruise ships that use us as a port of call, they stagger back on board having bought everything that isn't nailed down."

Miami is popular with Latin Americans because it is almost bilingual in Spanish, because tens of thousands of Cubans have settled there in the past 20 years. Miami International airport ranks second to Kennedy in New York in numbers of passenger airlines. There are terminals for 46 scheduled lines and 45 others making irregular calls. The man-made port of Miami on its rectangular plot in Biscayne Bay is now the world's biggest cruise ship base for 17 ships offering weekend, week-long or two-week trips round the Caribbean. In 1976 more than a million cruise passengers used the port.

Miami Beach is a separate town, with 90,000 inhabitants and seven miles of beach on a strip only one mile wide. There are 352 hotels offering 29,000 rooms. In spite of its anxiety about competition from Orlando, Miami Beach is

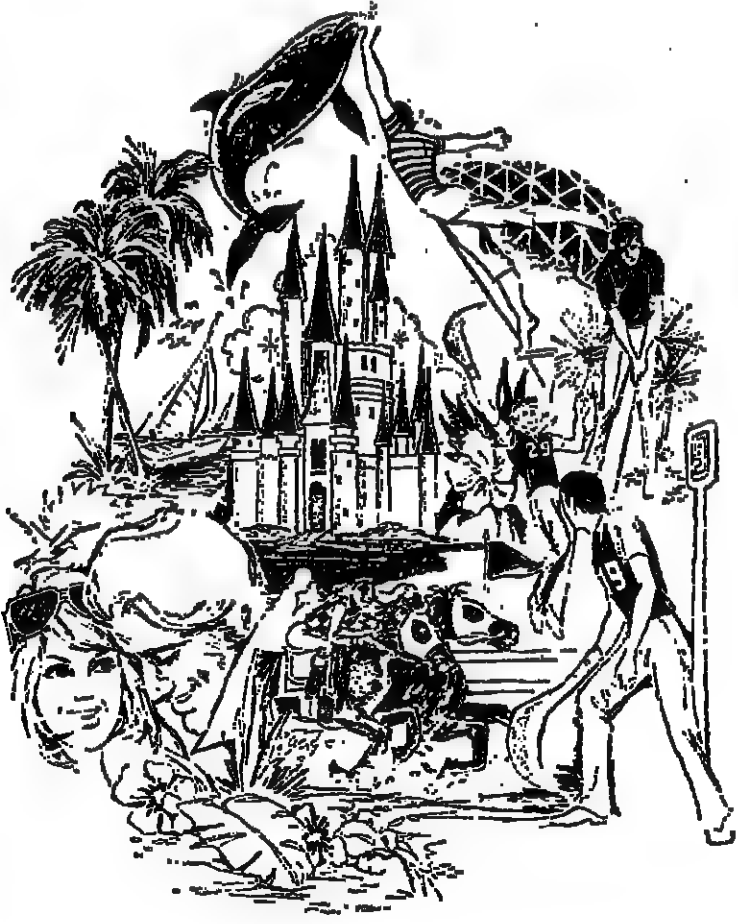
well served by tourist attractions near by. The Everglades National Park—thousands of square miles of mangrove swamps full of magnificent wild life—can be reached in an easy drive. Within the county, there is every kind of fishing, horse-racing and dog-racing facilities, golf courses and those typically American set attractions, such as the Parrot Jungle and the Planet Ocean, where the visitor can walk through a simulated hurricane. The beach boasts 400 tennis courts and the weather to enjoy them.

Many of the visitors are delegates to conventions. The Hyatt in Orlando does 40 per cent of its business from conferences and is aiming for 50 per cent. Miami Beach stages 600 conventions a year and now has a \$64m convention centre that could accommodate, for example, all the 20,000 delegates to the American College of Surgeons Convention in one place at the same time.

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Frank Vogl, United States Economics Correspondent, discusses the prospects for business and describes three of its aspects

Uncertainties dominated the outlook for Florida's economy as 1977 started. Cold weather did some damage to the tourist industry, seriously affecting agriculture and leading the federal government to declare the state a "disaster area". There was also a strike at some Miami Beach hotels.

The worst of the cold weather was seen on January 20 and there are indications that the gloomiest predictions made at the time were unjustified. The huge

citrus crops—Florida produces 20 per cent of the world's oranges and half of the world's grapefruit—were not as badly hit by the freeze as had been feared. There was little tree damage and record output seems in prospect.

The vegetable crops in south Florida were seriously hit, but new planting swiftly started and there is a danger now of an over-abundance of output in the state in the spring. "We are counting on heavy West European

purchases", says Mr. John Sciles, the marketing director at the Florida Department of Agriculture. The agricultural business in the state accounted for farm incomes of \$2,425m in 1975.

Tourism is another major state industry and the development of Disney World near Orlando has strengthened this aspect of the state's tourist trade, with Disney World alone attracting about 10 million visitors last year. Hopes are high throughout the state of another record tourist year this year, in

spite of the fairly poor start in industry. The state is fairly diversified and subject to many of the same general pressures evident in the United States economy. Florida's recovery from the recession has been slower than that of the nation as a whole, just as its unemployment rate of more than 9 per cent is above the national average. The key factor is the major position of the construction industry in the state and its generally depressed condition.

A revival of construction is widely expected. Rising personal incomes coupled with record recent rates of personal savings are providing an environment that is likely to ensure significant overall economic growth this year for the state—possibly 3 to 4 per cent in real terms. There is no doubt that a larger general manufacturing base would strengthen the economy and make it less prone to the volatile tourist and building industries.

BANKING

I returned from Miami, by the fact that their total deposits at \$25,723m for 1976, is greater than the total deposits of the commercial banks. The banks—most of them are comfortable way to make a lot of money.

Most of the banks in the state have ample time to play golf, enjoy the beaches and the sunshine and see their balance sheets grow by leaps and bounds. The maintenance of laws that restrict competition and the massive population explosion enjoyed by Florida (a 40 per cent gain in the 10 years to 1974) have produced this situation.

The state has 748 commercial banks. Most of them are small and enjoy almost a complete monopoly in the communities they serve. The total deposits of all the banks on June 30, 1976, was \$24,600m, according to the Florida Bankers' Association. Only two bank holding companies had deposits of more than \$2,000m (Southwest Banking Corporation and Barnett Bank of Florida). Only five others had total deposits of more than \$1,000m (Sun Bank of Florida, Flagship Bank, Florida National Bank, Atlantic Bank Corporation and First Financial Corporation).

Branch banking was outlawed until the start of this year. The change in the law only goes some way toward allowing a bank to open a great number of branches by limiting it to the opening of no more than two branches a year in a Florida county. Moreover, foreign banks are not allowed to establish offices in the state.

Few of the banks can be termed aggressive. Most of the banks are content to concentrate on basic retail business, leaving the nation's largest banks to serve the commercial financial needs of the state's largest business enterprises. There are changes in the offing, which might provide a rude awakening for some of the state's most lethargic bankers, but it will be many years before the competitive climate reaches the pitch now evident, for example, in California.

Most growth dates from the 1950s

Mr. Joel Wells, Jr., president of the Sun Bank in Orlando, says that banking in Florida is young, as is the whole of the state's general economic development. Most of the banks have been established in the past 40 years and few of them show any significant growth until the 1950s.

Bank holding companies really got off the ground in the 1950s by means of affiliation between numerous individual banks. The history of the Sun Bank illustrates banking progress in the state. The First National Bank of Orlando was organized in 1934 and its assets totalled \$35m by 1951. A holding company was formed in 1967 to bring together just a few affiliated institutions that had combined assets of about \$150m.

By the end of 1975 Sun Banks of Florida had 39 subsidiary commercial banks and two non-bank subsidiaries and total group assets of \$1,702m. The subsidiary banks mostly have their own individual identities and their own directors and the group lacks the tight consolidation of activities that would arise were all its subsidiaries just branches of a central bank.

Mr. Alexander Wolfe, chairman of the Southeast Bank, the largest bank in the Southeast First National Bank of Miami, says that the affiliate system can give a banking group a stronger position in the retail market and permit greater coverage of the whole state, although he does note that consolidation would produce a stronger capital base and possibly a more efficient management.

Banks like Sun, Barnett, Flagship and a few others are moving into the whole-sale banking business and becoming involved in more direct and complex money management operations.

The greatest competition the commercial bankers face in Florida is from the savings and loans associations. They can, and do, have branches and they have managed to convince the commercial banks to co-operate with them in such a way that they overcome some of the problems of not being allowed to issue checks books to their customers.

The strength and skills of these financial institutions is, perhaps, best reflected

by the fact that their total deposits at \$25,723m for 1976, is greater than the total deposits of the commercial banks. The banks—most of them are comfortable way to make a lot of money.

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PROPERTY

"We are just coming out of probably the worst recession ever experienced by Florida's building industry", according to Mr. Louis Fischer, president and chief executive officer of the large General Development Corporation. "The worst is behind us, I don't think there is any question about that."

Similar views are widely heard in the diverse, colourful and temperamental world of Florida real estate brokers, property developers and mortgage bankers.

But it may take another one or two years before the property market has fully recovered from the shocks of the recession, says Mr. Richard Schulte, senior vice-president for marketing of the Deltona Corporation. Exactly the same thing was said by Mr. Robert Brenner, senior vice-president at the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Miami.

Mr. Brenner notes that for the past two years much of the building industry has been at a standstill. "Many of our competitors have gone out of business", Mr. Fischer says. And according to Mr. Frank Mackle III, a director of Deltona and the company's executive vice-president, construction volume in Florida is probably little more than 30 to 40 per cent of what it was three or four years ago.

The recession had many effects on the property market, quite apart from bankrupting dozens of companies. Unemployment in the construction industry remains very high and, while building costs have continued to rise, the productivity of labour has increased, Mr. Mackle says.

Many people in Florida, from Mr. Schulte to Mr. Herman Rosenthal, a retired businessman, emphasize that the buying public has become much more wary and much better educated. Demands for better quality construction are evident. There is still a market for furnished flats (owner-occupied flats are known as condominiums) and sales of single-family houses are doing fairly well.

Both Mr. Fischer and Mr. Mackle complain that everyone in the industry got unfairly tainted by the many unscrupulous dealers who sought to make a killing in the boom of a few years ago.

"Florida has the reputation abroad of being the land of Mickey Mouse", according to Mr. Floyd Whiddon of the state's Economic Development Bureau. It is the state that offers sunshine to the old seeking a comfortable place to retire to and to the tourist, but it is not a formidable industrial manufacturing area.

Florida's economy is largely based on its agricultural, tourist and construction industries. It desperately needs more manufacturing to provide stability. The state's authorities recognize this and they are doing all they can to attract manufacturers.

The list of incentives to manufacturers is formidable, as long as the prime interest for the producer is going to be either the South American market or the growing market of the southeastern United States, or a combination of the two.

Florida is poorly placed, irrespective of its excellent road, rail, sea and air transport, to serve as a location for a manufacturer or a distributor to the United States national market.

The state's construction industry is vast, but, despite hopes of sharp growth, it seems doubtful if there is much scope for new manufacturers to enter the business. Food processing is also already highly developed and most competitive, particularly in citrus concentrates.

The companies most likely to prosper in manufacturing in Florida are those involved in consumer goods. The population of the state and of the south-eastern United States is increasing rapidly. The range of rapidly growing industries in the state is considerable, running from textiles to film making.

Electronic manufacturers have enjoyed substantial

growth in the south as early as 1972 and, while they took substantial losses, it was largely the real estate investment trusts financed by the big Chicago and New York banks that took the greatest losses.

Local experts were slower to perceive the decline of the central region, having been evidently carried away by the massive growth of Disney World, which managed to attract about 10 million tourists last year.

Mr. Brenner says that mortgage demand in the state is still very weak: in spite of First Federal, for example, offering an 8½ per cent rate, which is less than the national average rate. There are many unsold condominiums, although estimates of the total vary greatly.

Mr. Fischer says it may take another four or five years before all the condominiums built in the boom period have been sold, although new building is slowly getting started, with greater growth already evident for single-family homes. "Fire sales" are taking place for the worst built condominiums, Mr. Brenner says, and the newspapers seem full of special bargain sales.

Mr. Schulte sees the housing market recovering faster than the market for land, but says that foreign investment in property is gathering momentum. About 30 per cent of Deltona's stock last year were made abroad (the company has an office in Frankfurt).

Most of the foreign investment interest is coming from South America, with significant German and British interest and, unsurprisingly, considerable purchases by United States military personnel based overseas.

Mr. Lacombe is forecasting an 8 per cent economic growth this year for South Florida, which should aid the property business recovery. "The condominium market is going to come back, there is no doubt about that," he says.

His colleague, Mr. Mackle, suggests that property prices have reached the bottom and will start rising. "People know Florida, the sunshine and the beaches and they know this is a good place to come and live," he says. It is this widely held view that makes the experts in Florida optimistic, despite the very tough period they have just gone through.

Mr. Fischer, of General Development, who used to work in California, says he believes life in Florida. He believes the property business recovery is going to gather momentum this year, preferably, at a moderate pace. "If it takes off too fast the possibility of a great crash will be all the greater," he says. "This state is like California was 20 years ago, with tremendous growth ahead."

Many local banks saw problems ahead for the in-

dustrial in the south as early as 1972 and, while they took substantial losses, it was largely the real estate investment trusts financed by the big Chicago and New York banks that took the greatest losses.

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Florida has the highest per capita property tax level of any state in the south-east at about \$154 on average in 1974, which, nevertheless, compares with a national average of about \$226. Florida's corporate tax rate is also below the levels of most states.

Unemployment in Florida is about 9.5 per cent, compared with a recession peak in 1975 of more than 12 per cent. Wage rates are roughly comparable with neighbouring states and well below the national average.

Officials in the state government and businessmen continually mention the proximity to South America as a key reason why manufacturers should establish themselves in Florida. The state's Department of Commerce is deeply involved in aiding local manufacturers with trade promotion and it appears to be highly aware of the detailed market opportunities in Central and South America. Numerous multinational corporations already have their Latin American head offices in Florida.

There is increasing concern in the state about urban planning after what Mr. Bob Williams, at the Department of Commerce, admitted had been a long period of "raping and pillaging" of the land by construction companies. There is also growing concern about the general industrial environment.

Walt Disney looks as if he knew what he was doing a few years ago when he decided to turn 27,000 acres of central Florida into an amusement park. He saw the tourist and population growth potential. He recognized the state's many transport assets. He took advantage of the sunshine. It is just these same factors, rather than the tax incentives, for example, that are likely to convince many manufacturers to set up there rather than in other south-eastern states.

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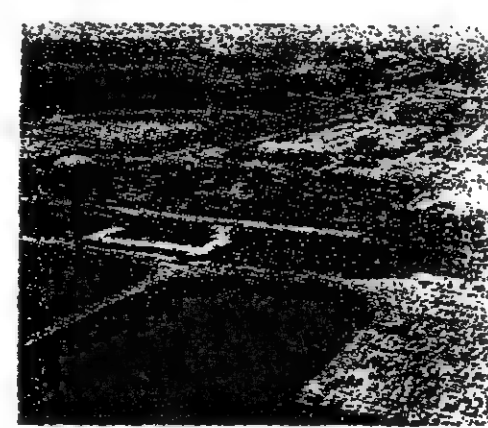
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FLORIDA
THE PLACE TO BE FOR BUSINESS

Deposits that enrich the land

by Susan Allen

There is more to the sunshine state than sun. More to Florida land than golden beaches. Underneath Bone Valley in west central Florida lies one of the world's greatest phosphate deposits, a rich resource that has made the state a leading producer of commercial fertilizers.

The Jay oilfield, discovered in 1970 in north-west Florida, was the largest on-shore discovery in 20 years in the United States. Florida is the ninth-ranking mineral producer in the nation, with a production value of more than \$1.700m last year.

Florida produces about 40 million short tons of phosphate a year—30 per cent of American and a third of world production. It exports about 14 million tons a year—second only to Morocco. Next to tourism, the phosphate industry is the state's highest income earner, contributing about \$1.000 jobs and \$1.500m a year in gross output.

International Minerals and Chemicals Corporation, with three open pit mines and a third of the world's phosphate reserves in Florida, is the largest independent producer of phosphates in the world, and accounts for about 30 per cent of state production.

The phosphate industry experienced unprecedented growth from 1973 to 1975, when world food stocks were at their lowest level and farmers the world over clamoured for more fertilizer to boost food production. Re-

flecting that boom, IMC sales of its agricultural products—phosphate rock, fertilizers and phosphate chemicals—jumped from \$242.3m in the fiscal year 1973 to record sales of \$748.6m in the fiscal year 1975.

The United States industry started up new fertilizer plants worth \$4,000m to meet demand, the pipelines filled and prices came down. IMC explained to shareholders: "The economics of the business do not permit small units or gradual expansion."

Its sales of agricultural products dropped to \$653.6m in fiscal year 1976. There was also more competition in the world market. Florida and Morocco provide about two thirds of world exports, but Morocco, with higher-grade ore and lower transport costs to Europe, increased its rock exports to half of the western European market.

But world demand for fertilizer is predicted to grow about 5 per cent a year. The phosphate industry has settled down to steady growth rather than rapid earnings.

The Jay field discovered by Humble Oil and Louisiana Land and Exploration in north-west Florida was largely responsible for a sixfold rise in Florida oil production from 25 million barrels cumulative through 1971, to more than 152 million barrels by the end of 1975.

The Jay field produced 104 million barrels of the oil in 1975.

* July 1974—June 1975

total and casing head gas from the Jay wells provide about one eighth of Florida's gas needs.

Florida's 10 fields produced about 5500m at well-head in 1975; production rose 10 per cent last year, according to Mr W. R. Oglesby of the state Bureau of Geology.

There have been no discoveries since 1974 in spite of increased exploration in the Sunnland Trend of south Florida, the first field discovered in the state. Drilling and completion costs generally have tumbled in recent years, and in Florida it is necessary to drill deep.

Oil scouts thick on ground

But oil scouts are still thick on the ground. "Wildcat activity in south Florida is higher than at any period since 1940," Mr Oglesby said. Last year 69 drilling permits were issued compared with 44 in 1975.

"There has been great interest in offshore drilling, but so far it has been a disappointment," he adds. Drillers hit seven dry wells at the Destin Dome site in the Gulf of Mexico south-west of Panama City. Twenty companies are to split the cost to drill a test in the Atlantic Ocean east of Jacksonville.

Very high grade limestone is mined in Florida; also

cement, clays, peat, sand and gravel. Florida sands yield concentrates from which rare earth metals, titanium and zircon are extracted.

Commercial forests, mostly "slash" pines, cover nearly half of Florida; there are five national and state forests in north and central Florida.

The forest industry harvests about 300 million cu ft of products a year, about two thirds of it for pulp. Retail value is nearly \$2,000m annually. Pulp, lumber, wood and gum naval stores, veneer, posts and fuelwood are the primary products and there are hundreds of secondary wood-using industries.

Replacement of cut timber is standard practice, after a study several years ago determined that more pine timber was cut than was grown from 1949 to 1958. The Forestry Division surveys the state's timber cut every two years to calculate the "commodity drain".

Growth has exceeded harvest for several years at about 50 per cent. But foresters say that nearly half of commercial forest land could grow more than double the present volume; more intensive forest management and cropping are needed to keep up with constantly rising demand for wood products.

The industry has cut waste by using more bark, sawdust and shavings, particularly for industrial fuels, particle board, fibre products and mulch.

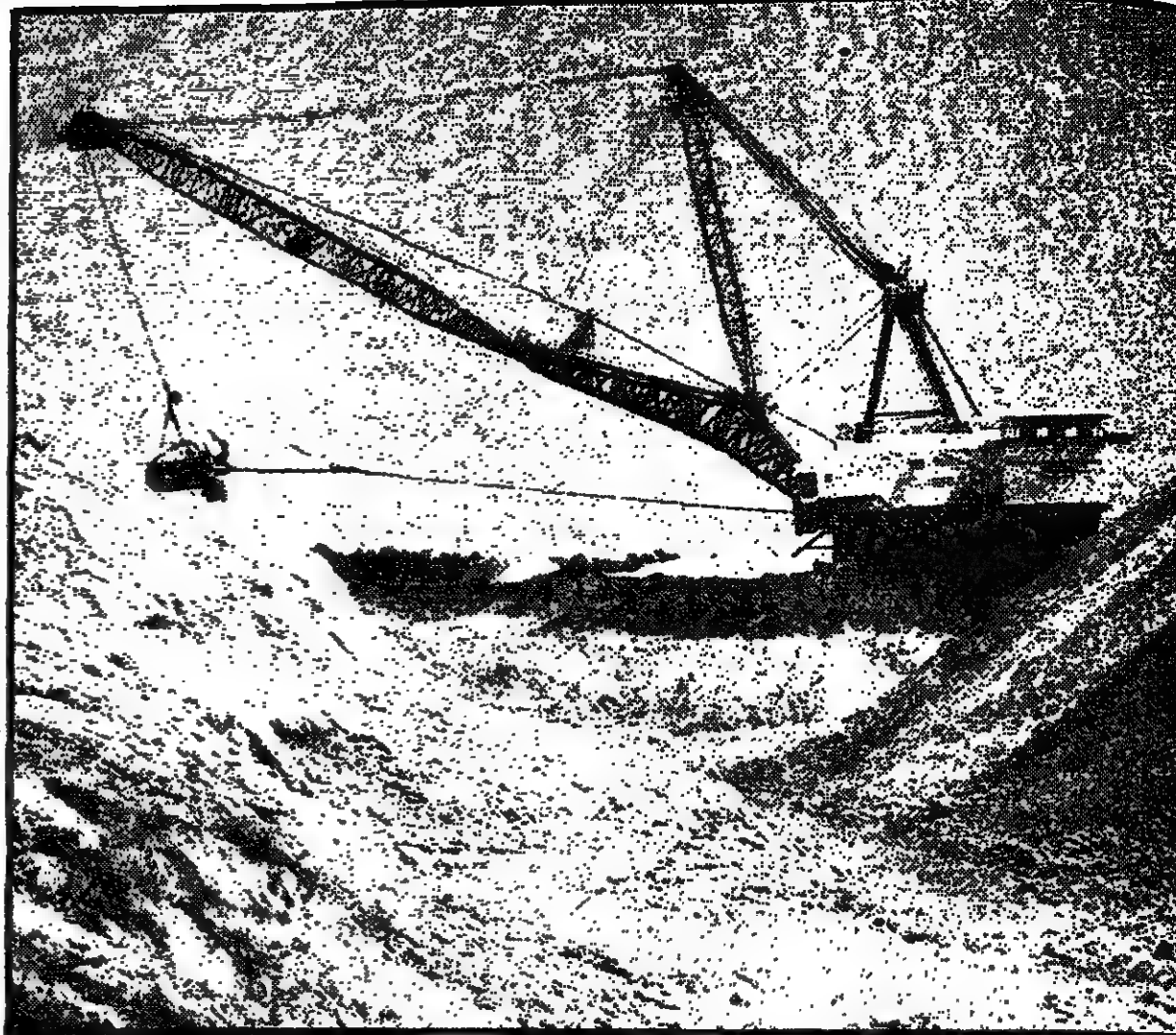
Exploitation of natural resources takes its toll. There has been widespread concern over non-renewable phosphate reserves, strip mining, excess water use to break up ore, clay slime wastes, radioactive emissions from the uranium in phosphate deposits and fluoride and rock dust air pollution from processing.

Beginning in the 1960s, Florida enacted air pollution, land reclamation and other environmental laws. Intensive industry, government and private research is under way to develop more conservative and safer mining and processing methods.

Florida levied a severance tax of 5 per cent of mineral production value, of which half goes back to the industry for reclamation. The phosphate industry has mined more than 90,000 acres. From 1965-75 it reclaimed 30,000 acres of strip mined land at a cost of \$10m and spent \$158.5m on air and water control and conservation.

Reclamation continues at sometimes more than the industry for reclamation. The industry points out that it has achieved full or more than full compliance with environmental regulations.

But apparently the public is still concerned about the industry's impact on the environment: perhaps it feels that additional laws are required or that industry is not putting environmental practices into effect fast enough.



A dragline strips off earth and rocks to reach phosphate ore in west central Florida.

Citrus assets frozen

A Florida farmer told me in early January that the citrus harvest would be so big this season that "there will be a problem to get all of it picked, packed, processed and sold at a profit."

That was before a killer frost hit the sunshine state in late January, severely damaging the central Florida crop and nearly wiping out the vegetable crops in south Florida. Governor Reuben Askew declared the state a disaster area, mostly to help migrant pickers who will be out of work for two months.

Florida citrus normally earns about \$2,000m in retail value; it was estimated the frost would affect the orange crop to the extent of about \$90m. Florida is the nation's largest citrus producer and provides 55 per cent of the world's grapefruit and 20 per cent of oranges.

In contrast to the present situation, Florida growers are usually worried about citrus over-supply. They have developed a highly organized marketing, promotion and research programme to keep the consumer demand up with supply. The praises of Florida orange juice are sung by Anita Bryant and Bing Crosby on television advertisements.

Frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) was the development that vaulted Florida citrus into prominence after the last war. "The nation embraced the product like nothing since Henry Ford's Model T," an industry historian said. Publicity pitches like "Breakfast without orange juice is like a day without sunshine" and for caloric counters, "Shape up with grapefruit from Florida"—together with a high-quality product—turned citrus into "Florida gold".

Orange juice sales alone reached a record \$1,000m last year. After putting orange juice on every American table, marketing efforts turned to other households around the world. Juice and fresh grapefruit sales dominated the Florida exports.

"We are the world leaders in juice sales, and we make more of it because we have more oranges," Mr Jack Matthews, of the Florida Citrus Commission, said. Four fifths of the orange crop goes into juice.

Canada, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain and Sweden are the leading overseas customers for Florida citrus. Fresh fruit is harder to sell in Europe because of competition from Mediterranean growers who are closer to European markets, but the Japanese demand for grapefruit, in Florida.

sometimes at \$1 each, is a strong market.

"Florida gold" tends to outshine other crops, but the state is a great store of products with market gardens scattered throughout the region. About 40 kinds of vegetables are produced commercially; the leaders are tomatoes, beans, squash, potatoes, lima beans, peppers, watermelons and sub-tropical or Cuban vegetables.

Although total acreage has changed little in the past 20 years, production has grown steadily in volume and value. In 1975 the value of Florida vegetables to the farmer was more than \$466m; the retail value was more than \$1,000m. The frost will cut volume and value this year, however.

The fastest-growing agribusiness in Florida is ornamental horticulture—plants that look good in the parlor. Florida leads the nation in ornamental foliage production. In Dade county alone, the business has grown from 800 to 1,000 nurseries in two years, with sales of \$100m last year. Again, the frost will affect output this year.

The severe weather also hit Florida's sugar cane crop at harvest time, with expected losses of 50,000 to 200,000 tons. Among field crops—corn for grain, soybeans, tobacco, peanuts, cotton and small grains—sugar cane is the most valuable. In recent years Florida accounted for about 15 per cent of American sugar supplies, after Cuba cut sugar exports to the United States.

Good trade in cattle

Cowboy boots and stetsons are almost as predominant in central Florida as on the Texas plains. The state has risen to sixteenth nationally in cattle production, with beef and dairy cow herds of almost three million head. Cattle sales earned \$216m in 1973, but in recent years the industry has faced losses because of increased production, higher feed and operating costs and lower beef prices.

"Strong marketing helps. Florida has excellent trade and transport links with Latin America. Dr Roberto Parajon, a rancher and veterinarian in Cuba before Fidel Castro took over, is a marketing specialist with the state Department of Agriculture.

Dr Parajon says there is a good trade with Venezuela, Brazil, Mexico and Nicaragua, especially for cowboys, cattle, dairy cows, and horses. "We have also reached many Latin Americans with bilingual livestock conferences and workshops in Florida."

Florida is the nation's third-ranking thoroughbred-raising state after Kentucky and California. At Ocala in central Florida, thoroughbred sales bring an average of about \$6,500 a head. Some horses sell for millions of dollars if the racing blood-line is aristocratic enough.

Farmers are getting squeezed by higher land prices and taxes, higher operating costs and stricter environmental controls. Citing more stringent labour, health and pesticide laws, Dr Parajon said: "If it keeps going like this, with increasing difficulties and disastoursments each year for the farmer, in 20 years agricultural products will be 10 times less than they are now. I think we will have a clean environment but no food."

Farming is increasingly becoming agribusiness, the domain of big companies. Between 1960 and 1970 the number of farm employees dropped from more than 300,000 to about 70,000. A University of Florida report on the future of farming predicts the need for a 35 per cent rise in production to offset loss of land to urbanization.

More growth on less land will require more efficiency, more irrigation, double cropping and a whole new generation of farm technology, it says. Agriculture's output will have to rise from the present \$2,400m to \$3,300m. The recent freezing weather was nothing new to Florida—there was a bad freeze in 1962 and a ruin freeze in the 1890s nearly decimated the infant citrus industry. But cold weather is less likely in Florida than elsewhere in the United States. The annual average temperature is a mild 70°F.

As the southernmost state, the Florida peninsula dabbles its big toe into the South Atlantic where the warm Gulf Stream and easterly breezes keep it warm in winter. Sea breezes and abundant rain moderate summer temperatures.

Florida is flat, which allows the land to soak up rainfall and replenish the extensive underground aquifer. Average rainfall is 53in a year—ensuring that Florida springs and reservoirs can supply about 10 times more than the daily consumption of water.

Florida can grow fresh food when other states are in the grip of winter. Mr Wade Meredith, manager of the State Farmers' Market near Homestead in the southern vegetable bowl, says: "The land down here is not worth a damn. It's coral rock and it takes a lot of fertilizer. But we can plant tomatoes every 90 days from August to May or June. Climate makes the crops here."

S.A.

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Michael Ratcliffe
It is possible to read the first two sentences of *The Merchant of Venice* 10 times and still not be certain whether the novel opens in Liverpool or Chester. Denis Constanduros's adaptation for *City of the Sun* solved the problem by having the hero say, like the Chorus in Elizabethan drama, "Here in Chester", very firmly.

It was a reassuring moment for those recusers who believe that the later fictional novels of James Joyce are more enjoyable on television than on the printed page—even if the production then threw in a disquisition of its own by staging the subsequent dialogue between Lewis Lammie, Strecher and Maria Gostrey not on the old brown walls of the city but in a studio set which, purporting to be the hotel garden, looked more like a small cloister.

A large white horse pawed noisily the background.

Irving Wardle
Like his hilarious predecessor, *The Chairman*, Philip Mackie's comedy is a period piece with pretensions to actuality. He writes about advertising men in a dead-on, fashion pundits and arch humorists. The success of a decade as though the bubble of the '60s had never burst and the pseudo-profession were still watertight.

With *The Chairman* this did not mean the play simply held up the advertising industry for a laugh. It does matter with *A Marriage*, which exchanges office politics for bedroom intrigue and presents the case of a media idol and his three wives as if this remained a fable for our times.

William Mann

Hamilton calls his *Tamara*, which will be heard for the first time this evening on BBC Radio 3, "a lyric drama for radio in 24 scenes". It was commissioned, and devised expressly, for radio, therefore by intention does not rank among his operas (if it is, it would be his fifth—the Royal Hunt of the Sun, recently staged at the London Coliseum, his first opera), and is designed not for theatrical production. Those who listen to the broadcast, especially if they know Marlowe's two-part play upon which Hamilton based his libretto, will instinctively find themselves rivetted to the seat. They may conclude that it is hardly less stageable than, say, Prokofiev's *War and Peace*, though the numerous battle scenes might cause problems, and the long, high-lying landscape would tax any baritone's voice. The author's music runs to just under an hour and a half without inter-

and (much built-up) Theriomas, Zenocrate and her ravayt, more briefly Bajazeth and his espress, Cosroe and the Governor of Babylon. Mar- we's thunderous verboojuice honed away into plain words & music instant intelligibility,

the Elysian Ensemble was not really an ensemble, as its three members, playing flute, oboe and piano, appeared together on the stage only in their final item, a piece of lawless music by Coppler called *Andante and Hungarian Rondo*. For the rest, was largely a matter of transcriptions. Joliver's *Grenade* for oboe and piano, for instance, being an arrangement of his *Wind Quintet*. This verdant piece had a clear, sparkling performance from Christopher O'Neal and Timothy Carney, and Mr O'Neal gave a really quite vivid count, pure yet incisive, of

ten style—prettily, by use of the Impressionist paintings (Marie Renault's *La Loge*, the avenging black rocks arrived at Monet's *Gare d'Orléans*), and the two young lovers met up at Renoir's *Arrière-pensée* by Sisley's *L'Inondation à Port-Mauril* and, rather more relevantly, by the five central performances directed by James Earl Ray.

At first self-burdened by an accent pitched in some remote *incognita* between Mississippi, Smethwick and Alice Springs, Paul Scofield managed Strether's double consciousness with a grace and wit that was equally in his embarrassment, delight and distractedness and, almost, in his innocence when refusing to accept what the rest of the world knew full well—Madame de Winter and Marie de Vionnet were lovers. The scene in which he found out by accident and Madame de Vionnet threw herself on his mercy was one of the most moving I have seen for some time though I have seen a few more of Deborah Kerr than of the lovely Deborah Kerr then in her first

Bob-Coward's endowments and his money and that mediocre photographer, George Bullfinch's posturing as a maker of flashy abstracts and buttoned-leather furniture is enough to black out the play for quite a while. Surely only the *Concrete Action Men* with his unimpeachable, unalloyed allegiances can give us the freedom of the individual cannot be seriously intended.

Well, he is; and up to a point he is worth it for the sake of just what follows. By which I do not just mean, of course, the showing of his fascinating, brilliant wife after 20 years of marriage and moving on to a celebrity-hunting research assistant and thence to a queenly fashion journalist.

But, I think, his real skill goes into showing how this little

The lyrical set pieces are richly abundant (as alas they did not in *The Royal Hunt*), with graceful writing for voices and much attractive music for orchestra: one can point to the sensuous duet when Tamburlaine first meets Zenocrate (the high woodwind's exotic arabesques are typical), the lively duet with double chorus during the battle of Constantinople, and the elaborate vocal quartet when Bajazet is discovered.

The story is unfused by Hamilton in flashbacks as Tamburlaine, attended by Theridamas, lies dying on the borders of China; after each scene we are returned to their reminiscences. Listeners should be prepared for these switches of scene, which, if cleverly done but possibly confusing in a non-visual medium.

Hamilton is lucky in his first performers, led by Jane Manning and Patricia Kern (splendid in their battle duet), Gerald English's very Theridamas, Alexander Young as the tortured Bajazet, and, above all, Norman Welby's impressive Tamburlaine, very occasionally and understandably taxed by the relentless

Beethoven, the first half of Friday's concerts in both the Festival Hall and the Queen Elizabeth Hall were devoted to Mozart and involved his music for soprano. In the larger house the Hallé Orchestra with Sheila Armstrong were giving high-

Brizzen's Ovid Metamorphoses. Despite a pounding keyboard part, the square-cut melodies of Prokofiev's Flute Sonata are obviously designed for "popular appeal." It received a lively interpretation from Keith Bragg, and Mr. Carey, however, as did some folksy fragments by Vaughan Williams that were rather inappropriately titled "Suite de Ballet."

Mary Hamilton attempted an interesting and fairly unusual programme, but one that was far beyond her capacities. Selling the article such as "Vagabondage in the desert," for example, demand sophisticated, highly accomplished singing

Not quite a political dis-
tinction made one regret that
the BBC has just managed to
make both *Le Dams aux Camelias* and *Anna Karenina* without
her. Whatever her fortunes in
the future may have been, the
small screen is the superb, so
will the BBC now make amend-
ments with perhaps a new *Rouge et le Noir* or *La Chatterreuse de
Parme*; Stendhal deserves no
less.

This scene hinged the play
What came before and after was
clever fencing. David Huffman
made callous Chad both plau-
sible and charming. The
Remick looked stunning and
played the gresome Maria with
a lightness that never quite con-
vinced us of her deep feelings
for Strehler; Gayle Hunicutt
turned Sarah Pook into a de-
lightful character, but it was
not only planned to nibble into
tiny pieces everyone in sight
but actually did so. By then
Madame de Viennet's sorrow
had killed the whole play and
the ending was even more bleak

events. The story is a minefield of clichés enacted by characters who are determined at all costs to avoid clichés. Their approach is to sum up a place in a sentence, as if Hoskins or a glacially moving glacier. Caroline Blakiston, each declares "I do not love you" as a prelude to falling into hungry embrace.

Vivian Mamon's production is well-paced and articulated, but leaves most of the characters suspended between sympathy and contempt. The big exception is Penella Fielding, bubbling with self-mockery, domestic charm, impeccable flippancy and all the least likely qualities in so abandoned wife who has just tried to kill her husband. A superb performance for years.

Elizabeth Spaiser with the English Chamber Orchestra was singing the concert aria, "Alma grande", as pendant to the E flat Divertimento K287. Here the soprano sang a delicate, likeable, Haydn concert aria followed by the Bear Symphony.

Both concert arias are still rarities; the Mozart composed for his forthcoming Dorabella in *Costi poco tante*, a finely expressive full-scale rondo in the composer's maturest vein, the Haydn of unknown origin, discovered recently by the late Robbins Landon, with a powerful bipartita recitative followed by a da capo aria with a splendid principal melody.

Both arias were well worth hearing though both were somewhat dully interpreted by Miss Spaiser. She is not unknown to the theatre as a fragile soprano instrument that deals neatly with florid music and can turn a phrase expressively; she knew enough about Mozartian style to execute Alma grande with all the appropriate graces (indeed, the appropriate added) (no, she forgot one of them), but afterwards she sang the Haydn with blunt phrase-ends all over the place, a bad look on her copy-book.

Miss Speiser's singing did not communicate much enthusiasm or even the special character of the items.

Wilfried Boettcher, who conducted the concert, did convey musical character in his readings.

quite different from the laboured efforts, with suspect pitching, that we actually heard. Some of Brahms's rather heavy *Zigeunerlieder* suited Miss Hamilton's mezzo-contralto better, yet her voice was by no means large enough, particularly in the upper register, for a group of beautiful, cosmopolitan, Rachmaninov songs like "Vesenniy vody". Bad intonation was again a problem in Britten's *Charm of Lullabies*, and little feeling was shown for *melodies*, elusive as "The Harpist's Song" and "Kashorn Sturock" were. Sometimes confused accompanist.

John Higgins

Jonathan Miller's production of *Così fan tutte*, back in the repertory of Kent Opera after an absence of three years and on in a new bridge this week, makes a strong case for it. The warmth of Da Ponte's subtle Bay of Naples has been replaced by an intellectual chill and a series of black drapes. The meals which frame the opera—the drinking party at which the boys on fidelity are tested, and the final wedding breakfast—seem so much frugal as noncommittal.

Dr Miller delights in erasing the few romantic touches which soften this herd and all-knowing libreros. What charming arbores, Dorothea remarks; but there are no trees. Light and shade are out of the window. Despatch commands; but there are no canoes, and only a cloth from which she must shake the dust herself. No one even to answer the call because the theatre is too small for its stage all evening, and that, the cost-conscious may say, saves on costume.

There are six props on stage: an Empire-style chaise longue which happens to be occupied while her mistresses are in emotional distress, two small seats, a couple of goblets (empty) and a wall with two doorways. This severe, almost poverty-stricken Naples is scarcely poised to look at the sea, has no point. Dr Miller focuses the mind on the words, for the most part decently articulated, because there is

women who learn and from a tavern wagger.

It is an intriguing idea not fully proved in this production simply because Kent Opera ladies are so good at something else. Andriana's Fiordiligi is a portrait by Ingres; she "Per pietà" slowly and ingly, accompanied by Norrington and the orchestra playing with perfect grammar. Margaret's Dorothea in another scene is a portrait by Borello for the soft and fool to her sister. The Ferrarese combine styles: gender. The suitors, Neil J and Thomas Lawlor, rougher-hewn in voice and manner, and I would another tenor and baritone, are not giving the theatre that the men go through having to pretend what they are not.

Anne Pashley's Despatch to the production. A ride of a serving maid, a waiter, a porter, and an intelligent employee. Pashley carries the right prancing bite in her voice. What might have been cast as Guglielmo (than Al) is so amiable a

for Mozart's Enlightenment or should be Criticism? This *Così*, I thanks to Jonathan Miller a thoughtful and provocative approach to Mozart, in view of the "Ich bin ein Mensch" treatment of the *Don Giovanni* Carmelites now on view. Met Opera without a ruff in sight.

Maggie Fitzgibbon, Gav Soper, David Firth and Robin Ray will take over from Millicent Martin, Julia McKenzie, David Kerr and Ned Sherrin in *Side by Side* by *Sondheim* at Wyndham's Theatre on April 4.

**Essays and Poems
and 'Simplicity', a
Comedy**

Wortley Montagu
 Edited by Robert Halsband
 and Isabel Grundy
 Oxford / Clarendon Press,
 1954 (50)

equations immanably. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Bage-
not. The reason? "Nothing
s or as transitory as second-class
same". And this was the
woman who had pioneered in-
calulation for smallpox, who is
of the greatest English let-
-writers, who corrected the
style of Voltaire, who had
whom Johnson, Voltaire, and
Gibbon had praised. Montagu
copyied her into his com-
place book. Feeling, Gay,
Congress, Seelye, Pope—but as
his fashion only for a
of the great leaders. And
even she was the possessor of
the Cat-Club. She outdid Max
scribbling by compiling her
"Entire Works" while still in
her teens. On the verge of 70
she was writing a history of
er name. She described it as a
er time epicurean and as
"myself" as "a sister of
". On her deathbed her
concern was to be remembered
as a woman of letters. And,

than ever before. Robert
 Halsband, one of the benefi-
 cent band of American scholars
 who in this generation have en-
 riched English eighteenth-cen-
 tury literature studies, is the au-
 thor of *Johns Hopkins Newsletter*
 enables us to keep track of their
 progress—published. Lady
 Mary's biography in 1956, gave
 us an annotated edition of her
 complete letters (1736-1791)
 and in 1959, she has again
 speak with her juxly in his
 life of *Lord Hervey*, and has
 now edited what would prob-
 ably have pleased Lady Mary,
 and certainly pleases us, most
 of all, her collected essays and
 her correspondence, *Conjunctio*.
 She has shared her work
 in this volume with Isobel
 Grundy of London University.
 Professor Halsband has anno-
 tated and introduced the prose-
 sion, and also done the same
 with the poems. The biographical
 anecdotes "about Lady
 Mary by her grand-daughter,
 lady Louisa Stuart, are also
 very for good measure. As a
 musical comedy song of our

in French literature
 master of the French
 and wrote a monologue
 Brutus after "the murder
 Caesar.

Her poetry has the
 vivacious variety,
 encompassed most of the n-
 of her range, her eloquence
 attributed to Pope; and to
 Her ballad, "Virtue
 Danger", has a pleasant
 She was cynical in "Epita-
 her answer to Pope's senti-
 tiality over two lovers killed
 lightning, in "The Epitaph
 lamium". Her lines on
 death of the Duke of Mon-
 borough are an austere ly-
 tribute, those on Cong-
 arewell the best and lo-
 at of mankind, are more
 of it. Including
 Grundy gives Lady Mary's
 "Verses wrote under Ger-
 Churchill's Pictur". Two
 years ago Professor Hals-
 was sure they were by L-
 Mary. They are lines
 would gladly have
 "whiffler in poetry."

William H

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A Times Profile

Michael Foot

How the left found its conscience

When *Tribune* reached its fortieth birthday a few weeks ago, James Callaghan asked Richard Clements, the editor, and the rest of the staff to Number 10. They were presented with a birthday cake, and as Clements dutifully raised the knife, a voice was heard from the back of the throng: "Another bloody cut!" said Michael Foot.

It was a typical note of irony. Michael Foot, deputy leader of the Labour Party, second man in the Government and former editor of *Tribune*, has far too much literary sensibility to forget the paradoxes in his situation.

There are flickers of the same tone in his public appearances and on the floor of the House of Commons. The left-wing rebel who acquiesces in Cabinet decisions to beg money from the IMF is also the man of principle now condemned to defend a kind of gerrymandering. Asked if the Government does not keep too many MPs in Scotland for purely party reasons, he rolls his eyes and says: "How can you think such a thing?"

He is also the back-bencher per excellence, now marked with the failure to force through a devolution Bill guillotine in Parliament that would have fallen on back-benchers' necks. Mrs Thatcher called it "sheepful" and "discreditable". Michael Foot, knowing that he and other opponents of the EEC were similarly guillotined by the Tories, could only lean affably across the dispatch boxes and say, "I detect a note of criticism..."

Irony, perseverance, sometimes silence. With these devices, he carries on, watched with disappointment by some of his old friends on the left

and by others with the sort of admiration St Sebastian probably had from the bystanders as the arrows went in.

It is, at 63, the most extraordinary climax to his career. One of his Cabinet colleagues says: "On any normal view of indispensability, he is the most important man in the Government." One of his old leftist friends puts it more mournfully: "He's been driven back step by step. The only strength he has left now is the strength of Samson: to pull everything crashing down if he chooses."

Certainly, the paradoxes press in. A man of notoriously sweet nature in private, he once recently lost his temper and started shouting at dinner because he was being persistently attacked for supporting a right wing government.

He still keeps up a rumpled and unaffected style of dress. At the state opening of Parliament, while colleagues like Lord (now Lord) Peart toggled up in the most outlandish way, he, Lord President of the Council, wore a lounge suit. When, for the first time, he was invited to a Downing Street dinner with the Queen, on Harold Wilson's retirement, he decided to wear a dinner suit. He had to be dissuaded from donning the one he had worn more than 40 years earlier, at Oxford.

Not only does the Prime Minister treat him carefully—as befits a man who came a very impressive second in the leadership election—but he also arouses in him much genuine goodwill. Michael Foot, who had the whip withdrawn himself in the days of much fiercer Labour battles than those today, is unlikely to forget how Callaghan voted in 1955 to withdraw the whip from his hero, Bevan. But he now praises his sincerity and capacity.

Obviously, Michael Foot is intriguing because of the balance of political forces he represents: his presence at the centre of a weak Labour administration dies in the trade unions and the radical left at Westminster to a grumbling right-wing still dominant in Cabinet. So far, the show has stayed on the road.

But he also demonstrates the influence of personality on politics. There is no one quite like him in the party, and probably no one else's mixture of skills, emotions and particular weaknesses could have so set the constellation in the sky of the present Labour Government.

He had a childhood of books and politics, middle-class, West Country and Liberal. There were seven children, and three of his brothers also became public figures. Somehow, in

the family rough and tumble, he grew up tense and shy. He still is shy, yet transformed when speaking in public. It is difficult to avoid the impression that his famous rhetoric provides not only a means of expression, but a welcome step away from other people. For all his fortissimo torrents, those close to him point to an underlying emotional reserve. The eczema and asthma that once plagued him have gone: he still drums his fingers and looks at his watch.

He acquired his socialism later, working in Liverpool. Although he has been perhaps unfairly attacked in the past for "Hampstead socialism", he was certainly not proletarian in origin (nor, indeed, over Marxist in thinking). Leighton Park School at Reading was, as A. J. P. Taylor said later, "the snob Quaker public school" and Wadham College, Oxford, where the young Michael Foot became President of the Union, found him still a Liberal.

He does live in Hampstead now, with his wife Jill, whom he met in 1947. Their circle of friends does include writers and journalists, rather than exclusively trade unionists. He did spend time drinking champagne with his friend and working-class hero Nye Bevan in the 1950s, but he held against both of them by their critics, for opposite reasons. He had bourgeois tastes for composers such as Shostakovich and Rossini.

But he has shown very little interest in money-making. In his twenties, wrote leaders for the *Evening Standard* and edited it during the war.

When the war ended, and party politics got back to normal, he resigned from the *Standard*, explaining he planned to wage perpetual war against the policies of the Express group, though not, he emphasized, its proprietor. He became an MP for Devonport. Later, Beaverbrook gave Foot £3,000 to bail out *Tribune*, which he was running at the time, though not in a very businesslike way.

Although the friendship had cooled in the early days of the Labour Government, it resumed after this incident, and Foot took a cottage on Beaverbrook's estate at Cherkley.

Foot had berated the newspaper magnates enthusiastically in Parliament. He told the 1947 Royal Commission on the Press, after a speech characterizing megalomania as an occupational disease of the press proprietors, of the exact way in which he had to operate a "blacklist" on the *Standard*. People like Paul Robeson were blacklisted for political reasons, he said, and there was a constant stream of editorial directives from the proprietor.

Almost 30 years later, his experiences surfaced again, in



CWE-7

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a long controversy with some Fleet Street editors. As Secretary of State for Employment, busy dismantling the Tory Industrial Relations Act, he gave an unsympathetic ear to complaints that, by not outlawing union closed shops in newspapers, he was threatening the freedom of the press. His sarcasm, as an ex-editor, was directed at the idea that editors had been free from interference in the past.

His great idol, of course, was Bevan. He and Jill were the closest of friends with Bevan and Jennie Lee: he admired his poetic oratory, his intelligence and his political ideas. Foot had quickly found himself out on the Labour party's radical limb after the war, fighting German rearmament and then nuclear weapons: there was a bitter quarrel when Foot, the Bevanite and nuclear disarmament, had to stomach Bevan's notorious "naked into the conference chamber" speech of 1957, in which he rejected unilateralism.

Bevan was more savage than Foot has ever been as a politician. Nor would Foot claim anything approaching Bevan's oratory. But some people would detect a faint parallel between the statesmanlike mantle Bevan put on in 1957, and the sacrifice of his freedom Foot made

in 1974 when he went into the government. The argument is that, just as Sam Watson, the miners' leader, persuaded Bevan then that world peace depended on him, so Jack Jones persuaded Michael Foot that a return of industrial peace after the Heath trauma (and the Wilson In Place of Strife trauma before that) depended on Foot himself.

Michael Foot has a crucial side as a literary man. His two-volume biography of Bevan, written over 12 years with a three-year gap after a bad car accident when he was unable to work, is widely praised for its grasp and plain, pure, prose style. It is attacked for painting Bevan too white and for being unfair to Gaitskell.

It is fairly easy to draw a picture of Michael Foot as an almost totally eighteenth-century character — stylist, rationalist, polemicist, and parliamentarian. A bibliophile like his father, he has an unrivalled collection of Hazlitt, and what he admires about him is revealing. Hazlitt was a left-wing partisan, not afraid of partisanship, and full of distaste for "moderates" and those who betrayed his own side. But he is also fascinated by Stendhal and Heine: half-romantic, half-realist, he says of them.

Foot's performance as an orator is famous: he speaks without notes, which means that only his parliamentary utterances tend to be preserved. Nor do his crescendos, the whirling dervish and the flailing white hair, become obvious in the study. But, going back through *Hansard*, it is possible to see something of what sent MPs flooding out of the tea-rooms whenever the Commons announcer showed he was speaking.

He often starts sweetly, in the word he uses of Bevan's openings. The witticisms are sometimes vitriolic, sometimes teasing. Attacking in 1963, what he called a "Heath Robinson" plan (of his own front bench, naturally enough) for House of Lords reform, he conjured up a compelling picture of national crises being settled by self-styled cross-benchers in the Lords. And he poured scorn on the idea of Commons party whips selecting peers: "Think of it! A second chamber selected by the whips. A seraglio of eunuchs."

Mr Callaghan, then Home Secretary, and answering the Lords reform debate for the Government, said that Michael Foot, though skilful, "over-drew the picture a little". But Foot, in an alliance with that other great House of Commons man, Enoch Powell, won in the end. They talked the Bill into the ground, in the way that, paradoxically again, House of Commons men have now succeeded in doing with Michael Foot's own, inherited, devolution Bill.

Foot's passion for parliament is called reactionary by some. He is completely hostile to the efforts of Commons reformers to move MPs out of the debating chamber into specialist committees. He calls them "sewing parties". He does not see the place as a piece of machinery in that fashion, but as a great vehicle for clash and argument and ruse.

The conscience of the left, as Michael Foot became, reached power of a real kind late in his career. On the face of it, it was a strange change. The love of liberty is the love of others; the love of power is the love of oneself. Is it a charge that can fairly be levelled at the most gentlemanly, the most libertarian of politicians?

Harold Wilson certainly toyed with giving Michael Foot office. According to those close to him, Michael Foot was rung up by Wilson when the 1964 government came to power, and told he would eventually be given office. When Frank Cousins left the Ministry of Technology, Foot was told as second-hand that he was being considered for the job. He had not originally been adverse to a job, but by then he was deeply hostile to British support for the Americans in Vietnam, and wrote to Wilson telling him so; it avoided the embarrassment of Wilson having his offer refused.

When the administration fell, Foot stood for the Shadow Cabinet, and made an immediate impression there. One of his colleagues recalls: "I was really amazed at him. He was really the outstanding person in the Shadow Cabinet. He had a kind of general wisdom and bigness of approach as well as a remarkable tactical sense of how and when to play issues. He made so many of my old colleagues in the Cabinet look two-dimensional."

With the return to power, he went to Employment. The whole rapport with the unions and the social contract was undoubtedly his doing. Another of his friends says: "It was wonderful to see him or be in the department. There was such obvious affection and trust between him and the union leaders. I remember wishing the rest of the government was like him."

If his interest in detail was never great, his relation with

departmental civil servants was good. They found him good company, and he did not need or want to change any of them. In Cabinet, he set about a deliberate style of bridge-building and intense argument. His colleagues noted that while some left-wingers spoke pretty obviously for the record, Foot sought to convince.

But he went into the government knowing what compromises it implied. He telephoned he knew one had to compromise in Cabinet, and he said that, if he had realized the limitations and constraints of power, he would have written his second volume of Bevan's biography, set after the war, rather differently.

He could probably have stayed at Employment if he had wished. Few of his colleagues think it was a muffled play by Callaghan to give him charge of devolution. Leader of the House seemed a genuinely suitable job for such a parliamentarian, and he does actually believe in the idea of home rule. Typically, he set about reading all the literary works of previous Leaders of the House.

There was even, after Wilson resigned, a mad couple of days when it seemed as if he might become Prime Minister. At one point, 150 votes, almost majority, were in prospect, and his supporters were excitedly planning a victory party. As it was, his 130 votes showed how much the party thought of him. He had to be given an important job.

Michael Foot himself would undoubtedly argue that what he is engaged in is a task well worth sacrificing temporary acclaim for. (He would possibly take the same line on India where he has angered and disappointed many by his refusal to condemn Mrs Gandhi outright. He visits her instead, and his track record makes it unlikely he ever encouraged her in suspending democratic rights.)

As Michael Foot sits on the front bench, night after night, he has had to listen to young *Tribune* MPs like Neil Kinnock attack him and the Government's devolution Bill. Kinnock, a personal friend of Foot's, comes from Tredegar, where Bevan was born, and sits for the constituency next to Foot's own seat, and Bevan's old one, Blw Vale. He must remind Foot a bit of Bevan. He must even remind him, sometimes, of the old Foot himself. Who speaks for Labour's future? Or will they both go down together into the margins of history?

David Leigh

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Why has Europe enthusiastically adopted the 20AX colour TV system?



a technological advance which represents more than twenty years research and development and marks a new era in television electronics design. No other 110° colour tube system in the world is so advanced.

What is the 20AX system?

It is the only fully self-converging slimline 110° tube system available for picture tubes in 18, 20, 22 and 26 inch sizes.

How do ordinary TV sets work?

Until now the inside of most colour TV screens has been coated with a million dots of red, green and blue phosphors, arranged in tiny triangles.

The dots become a colour picture when they are made to glow by firing beams of electrons at them from three electron guns housed in the neck of the picture tube.

The guns, one for each colour, are arranged, like the dots, in a triangle.

The beams are guided to their targets through thousands of tiny holes in what is known as a shadow mask. Getting

Because this new 110° colour tube system is the most important advance in set design since the arrival of colour TV itself. Tube bulkiness and circuit complexities have been 'designed-out'. The result? Slimmer, elegant, more reliable sets which warm up fast, maintaining a first-class colour picture over a much longer period. 20AX — it's known as 'Eurocolour' across the Channel — is a dramatically simpler way to get colour TV precisely right. It is

the triangle of beams to land precisely on a triangle of dots is known as convergence and, for a perfect picture, this has to be done across the whole screen, twenty-five times a second. To achieve this, many extra electronic components are needed and up to eighteen complex convergence adjustments have to be made before a set leaves the factory.

So how is 20AX better?

20AX gets rid of the complexities, using guns arranged in a line rather than a triangle, a slotted shadow mask, vertical phosphor stripes and a self-converging deflection yoke. The result is perfect colour registration from the centre of the picture right out to the

corners. The 20AX system achieves this automatically, eliminating many components and adjustments required in conventional sets.

What does this mean for the viewer?

For a start, the fewer the components, the fewer there are to go wrong. But there's more to 20AX than that. Not only does it give an excellent picture with perfect colour registration right out to the corners, but this quality is maintained for a long, long time. In other words, better picture quality and greater reliability.



Any other advantages?

Certainly, 20AX has the bonus of a 'quick warm-up' filament — which means a picture within about five seconds, without leaving the set plugged in on stand-by, which is safer and saves electricity. And the new Mullard 20AX 110° tube needs less space, so 20AX sets are slimmer than sets with conventional tubes.

What does this mean for Britain?

Mullard, now Britain's only TV tube maker, has invested £7 million in re-equipping three of its factories to produce the new tubes and components wanted for 20AX. This investment is already paying off in a number of ways. In 1976, in addition to the £6 million worth of 20AX tubes and components which Mullard exported to Europe,

British-made TV sets — using 20AX components from Mullard — were capturing a share of this discerning market. Europe demands sets which provide high reliability and embody the very latest technology. With 20AX British set manufacturers were well able to satisfy these requirements.

We are proud that 20AX is spearheading the British TV export drive for both the set manufacturers and Mullard. And, of course, on both counts British jobs are protected.

20AX looks like a great leap forward

It is indeed. So when you come to buy or hire your next colour TV, demonstrate your knowledge, ask the sales person about 20AX. You're bound to see the 20AX symbol in your TV showroom soon.



Mullard



مكتبات الأصيل

The dangers in
a price
freeze, Hugh
Stephenson, p 23

Treasury forecast offers hope for £1,000m tax cuts within IMF loan conditions

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent

With preparations for the March 29 Budget well advanced, the latest Treasury forecast of the economy confirms that the Chancellor could give away in the region of £1,000m in tax relief without breaking the IMF limits on public borrowing.

The forecast, prepared each year to guide the Chancellor in his Budget deliberations, is also believed to predict that inflation by the end of the year will be lower than seemed likely in December when total public sector borrowing during the current year was £1,000m less than predicted at the time of the IMF application.

Whitehall officials say that the Treasury forecast is within a few hundred million of the £1,000m consensus forecast as the figure by which public borrowing the next year would be under the £1,000m limit could be adjusted.

That gives Mr Healey some room for manoeuvre in his declared intention of reducing income tax.

The Chancellor is committed to a deal with the overlap which occurs between the two income tax systems.

A combination of tax bills and loss of benefits means that people face very high marginal rates of taxation on fairly low incomes, a phenomenon known as the "poverty trap".

There seems to be three ways open to the Chancellor to deal with the problem: One would be to keep the tax bills as they are, but to phase out more gradually as earnings rise.

To do this in such a way that the poverty trap lost its bite would, however, result in means-tested benefits being paid to people on twice average earnings in some cases, which strikes at the very heart of the notion that these benefits are aimed specifically at those in most need.

A second solution would be to introduce a low rate of tax on some portion of taxable income, which in some ways would be a return to the old system where tax rates rose gently. Quite apart from the fact that such a scheme would be administratively complex, it would also be very expensive if it were to be effective.

Because of this the third obvious option—increasing the allowances deducted from gross pay in order to work out taxable income—still seems the most likely. This would be similar to Mr Healey's tactic last year.

Even this means would still involve quite considerable concessions in order to work out taxable income—still seems the most likely. This would be similar to Mr Healey's tactic last year.

It is known however to favour a switch towards indirect taxes. The Chancellor's view is that changes over the years have brought many more people into the income tax net and operated in such a way as to keep the traditional argument against indirect taxes—that they are regressive.

Against this is the problem that raising indirect taxes has a more obvious inflationary impact. Since the trade unions are clearly very concerned about the way price rises are continuing after long periods of relative wage restraint, there may be pressure on him to peg indirect taxes if it helps to get a new round of pay policy.

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Just how the Chancellor links his Budget tax proposals with a new pay policy remains perhaps the most difficult question. Last year he split the tax concessions in detail but said that they were conditional on a satisfactory negotiation on pay restraint. Such a system is not ruled out in this year's Budget, but opposition from within the Cabinet and the trade unions would seem to make it not the most likely option.

Other alternatives include making firm concessions in the Budget speech as a sort of opening offer, and holding out the prospect of further measures later if pay restraint is agreed, or spelling out very explicitly what sort of pay restraint he wants and leaving the details of the tax rather more vague.

However, the Chancellor has repeated frequently that any tax concessions must depend on an agreement over pay restraint.

Henry Forecasts: Meanwhile, the Henry Centre for Forecasting today predicted a £2,000m income tax cut by Mr Healey and rises in consumer spending of almost 1 per cent this year and nearly 3 per cent in 1978.

The Centre also forecasts a 13 per cent rise in the wages and salary bill after stage two of the pay policy.

Jaundiced US view: Britain's serious economic problems persist despite the international lending agreement during the past few months, according to a congressional report.

Prepared by the staff of the Senate subcommittee on foreign economic policy, the report said the recent loans would do nothing to remedy the serious structural weaknesses in the British economy.

If the social contract broke down, the report forecast either new inflationary wage demands or widespread strikes.

Washington talks on 'Downing St summit'

From Fred Emery
Washington, March 13

Mr Callaghan was still making his farewells here yesterday when high officials from seven allied countries set down to their first preparatory meeting at the White House for the May 7-8 economic summit in London.

By calling for "collective monetary" and "economic security" to match NATO's collective military security, the Prime Minister has invested what he calls the "Downing Street summit" with high purpose. President Carter, his officials say, is also bent on making it a signal success.

Participants at yesterday's meeting concluded their business in one day, rather than the two originally set. They discussed while preparations for London were being undertaken with greater thoroughness and intensity than those for the last summit, at Puerto Rico last June, a meeting where "great decisions" were taken was not in store.

In managing the world's economy better, they said, the executive decisions came after such political meetings—at the International Monetary Fund and the like.

Yesterday's discussions, described as "low-key" saw a first raising of the agenda issues that are self-evident—concern over sustaining the rate of world economic expansion, and how best to keep going the three most powerful economies—American, German and Japanese.

Mr Callaghan left with the impression that Mr Carter was still prodding both the others to refocus.

The question of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' surplus, raised by Mr Callaghan in his rather gloomy analysis of continued slow growth unless policies were changed, was also understood to have been discussed.

German economy grew at an annual rate of 6 per cent in real terms on a seasonally adjusted basis in the final quarter of last year while the latest production figures show the seasonally adjusted index rising by a respectable 2 per cent between December and January.

Although this weekend Herr Schmidt predicted a "decent" decline in the West German unemployment rate this year from the current level of 5.3 per cent, there are plenty of sceptics in West Germany, as well as abroad.

The powerful IG Metall union today backed the German trade union federation, the DGB, in calling for an injection of DM20,000m of public spending to combat unemployment, while on Saturday Professor Rolf Rodenstock, the vice-president of the German federation, said the number of unemployed, now just over 1.2 million, would hover around the million mark for the next three to five years.

Inchcape floats \$25m Eurobond as authorities waive dividend curb

By John Brennan

Inchcape, the international trading group, has negotiated its way through the maze of Treasury regulations and secured exemption from the existing dividend controls.

The group is now free "to establish dividend policy by reference to normal commercial criteria" after this year, having already been granted Treasury permission to double this year's dividends following its £18m share and cash purchase of Lloyd's insurance brokers, Bain Dawes, last September.

Freedom from dividend controls has helped Inchcape become the first British company in recent years to tap the international capital market with the announcement today of a \$25m (£14.7m) convertible Eurobond, issued through its Bermudan subsidiary.

This issue, backed by a forecast of 1976-77 profits ahead of market expectations at £7.5m pre-tax, is jointly managed by Credit Suisse, White Weld and Baring Brothers.

The managers expect no problems in underwriting the issue, which is convertible on or after October 1, 1977, at a premium of not more than 35p over Inchcape's shares at Friday's closing price of 350p. A 7 per cent coupon will be payable semi-annually.

Inchcape's success in getting the Treasury to release it from dividend controls could presage a flood of similar applications from other groups operating mainly overseas, such as London, Booker, McConnell, James Findlay, Unilever, and even United Kingdom-registered oil companies.

Inchcape's own decision to apply for exemption followed the successful appeal last autumn of its 15 per cent-owned associate Ocean Wilsons, Ocean, and now Inchcape, have won exemption from the controls under rules originally set up to cover companies which, although registered in Britain, were overseas traders in taxation and currency control terms.

In 1975 the Treasury made clear that it would consider exemption from the controls on companies which were subject to the dividend restriction policy because of their domicile.

The Treasury's ruling on

which it described as "an overseas trading company for all practical purposes" despite its liability to United Kingdom tax and currency exchange controls, and its ruling now on Inchcape, indicates a marked relaxation in its interpretation of the controls.

Inchcape's new Eurobond issue, which has both Treasury and Bank of England approval, will be used to reduce the group's short and medium-term foreign currency borrowings in this country.

Mr Donald Caswell, Inchcape's financial controller, explained yesterday that this was the first time in four or five years that the international market has been receptive to a British company issue, and that it was the first British issue in many years to have the support of one of the leading Swiss banks.

The new issue is aimed at Continental and Middle Eastern investors who, Mr Caswell says, "simply do not understand dividend controls. Exemption from the restrictions will, clearly help us set this issue away".

The Treasury's ruling on

Financial Editor, page 23

Companies Act reform in effect on April 18

By Nicholas Hirst

Two of the most significant reforms of the 1976 Companies Act will be in effect from April 18.

The reforms call for much greater disclosure of share dealings, further attacking the activities of unscrupulous operators who "warehouse" shares secretly in order to spring a bid at a cheaper price than might otherwise be necessary.

From April 18 all companies will be able to demand to know who lies behind the nominee holdings on their share registers and so will be able to flush out potential bidders.

Under the new provisions, any quoted company's shares will have until May 5—14 working days—to declare their holdings to the company.

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US demand lifts value of North Sea oil

By Roger Vielvoe
Energy Correspondent

Sharply rising demand from America for low sulphur crude has raised the value of oil from the British and Norwegian sectors of the North Sea by 25 cents a barrel on the open market in the first two months of this year.

North Sea oil is now a dollar a barrel above the prices last Christmas with spot cargoes from British Petroleum's Forties field fetching \$14.30 a barrel, and oil from the Phillips group's Ekofisk field in Norway commanding \$14.35 (£8.43) a barrel.

American buyers are concentrating their search for low sulphur oils on North Africa and Algeria, but demand is outstripping supplies from these areas, and North Sea has been brought in as an alternative.

According to oil industry sources, Algeria, Libya and Nigeria, the main African producers, may be tempted to boost their oil prices in line with the increasing value of their oil on the spot market.

A move along these lines would have even greater benefits for Britain's exports of North Sea oil, the bulk of which takes place at the official prices of around \$14.05 a barrel.

Only small amounts of North Sea oil are traded on the open market, but the price they command is an important indicator to the Government of what the companies like BP and Shell should be charging on their longer-term contracts with affiliates and third party customers.

The rise in the value of North Sea crude on the spot market has been spectacular. Last October it was fetching about \$13.00 a barrel and after a sudden rise in November, Forties crude was commanding \$13.30 at the end of last year.

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Nube voices concern at bank staffs' 'recognition'

Intense rivalry between the National Union of Bank Employees (Nube) and the Banking Staff Association reached a new pitch with the news that the Council of Bank Staff Associations (CBSA) has been granted a certificate of independence under the Employment Protection Act.

The CBSA claimed last night that it was a triumph, proving once and for all that despite accusations by Nube it was a truly independent body and not under the influence of employers.

The three staff associations that comprise CBSA membership—Barclays, Lloyd's and National Westminster—have already been granted certificates of independence under the Employment Protection Act.

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Bonn puts final touch to its economic strategy

From Peter Norman
Bonn, March 13

West Germany's cabinet will take the final decisions needed at its next two meetings to complete the Government's current economic strategy.

Although the measures to be decided will contain few surprises, it is hoped that the burst of activity will impress Germany's trading partners and dissuade them from exerting further pressure on Bonn to reflate the economy when the world economic summit is held in London in May.

For the Government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is as convinced as ever that its strategy of aiming for a largely inflation-free growth of about 5 per cent this year is the correct one.

Rather than see Germany become the economic scapegoat, it is anxious to channel discussion in London on to the North-South dialogue and the now largely forgotten subject of relations between the industrial-

ised countries and the oil-producing nations.

On Wednesday this week Dr Hans Apel, the Finance Minister, will seek approval for a tax amendment bill giving DM3,000m (about £771m) per year in relief to business and roughly the same to individual taxpayers from the beginning of 1978.

The catch in the package is that it is conditional on Parliament, including the Opposition-dominated Upper House, approving a simultaneous 2 per cent increase in value-added tax.

The VAT rise will increase revenues by about DM12,000m a year, half of which will go towards consolidating public finances.

On the following Wednesday the cabinet is expected to give the final go-ahead to the DM10,000m to DM12,000m public sector investment programme, which is to be carried out by the federal and state governments and the municipal-

ities in the period to the end of 1980.

It will also discuss and could adopt a new energy programme in which the Government will reaffirm its belief in the need for nuclear power and a reduction in Germany's dependence on imported oil.

The short-term impact of these decisions will be slight. The Government hopes that new orders worth between DM3,000m and DM4,000m can be placed this year under the investment programme, but inevitably there will be a delay before they can have an impact on industrial activity. The most that can be expected from the energy programme is that it will help to bolster business confidence.

But the rush of decision-making will give Dr Apel and Dr Hans Friderichs, the Economics Minister, an opportunity to spread the optimism that is felt in Bonn about the state of the economy.

The Federal Bank in Frankfurt recently calculated that the

German economy grew at an annual rate of 6 per cent in real terms on a seasonally adjusted basis in the final quarter of last year while the latest production figures show the seasonally adjusted index rising by a respectable 2 per cent between December and January.

Although this weekend Herr Schmidt predicted a "decent" decline in the West German unemployment rate this year from the current level of 5.3 per cent, there are plenty of sceptics in West Germany, as well as abroad.

The powerful IG Metall union today backed the German trade union federation, the DGB, in calling for an injection of DM20,000m of public spending to combat unemployment, while on Saturday Professor Rolf Rodenstock, the vice-president of the German federation, said the number of unemployed, now just over 1.2 million, would hover around the million mark for the next three to five years.

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Business appointments

Three corporate finance directors named by Chase Manhattan Bank

Mr Donald C. Roth is to join Chase Manhattan (Asia) as executive director in charge of corporate finance for the Pacific basin area. Before joining Chase, he was a senior vice-president in the corporate finance department of Merrill Lynch, based in London. Mr John Walker-Haworth becomes an associate director in the corporate finance department. He is a former senior member in the corporate finance division of Citicorp and Company. Mr Ove Lindemann has joined Chase Manhattan Ltd in London as an associate director, responsible for Eurobond placing activities. He was formerly a partner in James Capel and Company.

Mr John Clement, chief executive of Unigate, is to become chairman and chief executive in September after the retirement of Sir James Barker, who will also be leaving the board.

Mr Andrew Swan has been appointed to the board of Cosalt. Mr P. G. Hawkins has joined the board of Hawkins and Tison. Mr John Paterson has been made financial director and company secretary of Adams Foods. Mr P. Roberts has become a director of Steeley.

Mr W. R. Merton has succeeded Mr M. F. Berry as chairman of United States and General Trust Corporation.

Mr Keith Wardle and Mr John Bedford have been made joint managing directors of Birstall Foundry.

Mr J. B. McCuckian has been appointed a director of London and European Group.

Mr J. M. Carpenter has been made deputy chairman of Carrels International. Mr J. P. Crossley remains vice-chairman and has become deputy group chief executive.

Mr J. H. Webb, deputy general manager and principal actuary, UK division, has been made actuary to Commercial Union Assurance. Mr Kenneth Allen, general manager and chief actuary, will retire on April 30.

Mr N. A. Stokes, formerly finance director of AE Auto Parts, becomes deputy managing director. Mr J. Clayton joins the board and both join the board of A. E. (Sales).

Mr J. L. Hepworth has been succeeded as chairman of Hepworth & Grandage by Mr J. Winstanley, a director of Associated Engineering, the parent company, and managing director of its cylinder components division.

Mr C. Ackroyd becomes managing director of Hepworth & Grandage. Mr George Duncan has been appointed to the board of City of London Brewery and Investment Trust.

Mr Christopher Morgan has been named sales and cigarette marketing director of Galleher. Dr C. D. T. Minton has been made managing director of IMI Opelha, in succession to Mr P. J. Allen, who is retiring.

Mr Raymond Davies, the Post Office director of Telecommunications pay and grading, is to be director of management development. He takes over in June, succeeding Mr John Morris, who is retiring.

Mr Davies will be succeeded by Mr David Savill. Mr Robert Reid has been appointed a director of British Transport Hotels in place of Mr H. C. Sanderson.



Mr John Clement (left) chief executive of Unigate, who is additionally to become chairman in September; Mr J. M. Carpenter (right), who has been made deputy chairman of Carrels International.



Mr Raymond Davies (left) who takes over as the Post Office's director of management development in June; Mr B. H. Nicholson (right), who has joined the board of Rank Xerox.

Mr R. Dickinson has been made director of research at BAC military aircraft division. Mr S. Gillbrand becomes director of manufacturing. Mr P. Miller, Mr A. N. Rhodes, Mr A. T. F. Simmons and Mr B. W. Wright have been made special directors.

Mr Dermot J. Hurley has been appointed director, employee participation and communications, Chrysler UK.

Mr Robert Howe joins the board of Associated Tooling Industries.

Dr George Somerville will succeed Dr R. E. Rowe as director of research and development of the Cement and Concrete Association from April 1.

Mr J. R. M. MacLeod has been appointed to the main board of Prestole Holdings as planning director. He was formerly managing director of Seale Manufacturing, acquired by Prestole last year.

Mr A. G. V. Owen, director of engineering at Seale, takes over as managing director.

Mr Tony Acton and Mr Alan Grantham have been appointed vice-chairmen of Cross Country. Mr Ernest Marshall has been made managing director of Cory Sand & Ballast. He succeeds Mr A. G. Ellis, who is to retire.

Mr B. H. Nicholson has joined the board of Rank Xerox as director, European region.

Mr Leonard Grosse has been appointed to the board of Wigham Poland Holdings and will also be chairman of Wigham Poland (L. & P.). Mr David Evans, previously non-executive chairman of Wigham Poland (L. & P.), will now concentrate solely on his duties as a director of Wigham Poland UK.

Recession exposed weakness in Limburg's 'painless' conversion

Limburg, the southern Dutch province, is a very untypical part of the Netherlands. Geographically it is isolated from the rest of the country, extending south to form a narrow political isthmus surrounded on three sides by Belgium and West Germany. It is also hilly and there is hardly a windmill to be seen.

From 1900 to 1973 Limburg was a typical coal mining area. Empty pithead buildings and abandoned spoil heaps still stick up from the rolling countryside as monuments to the industry that converted a largely rural area into a densely populated industrial region.

When the last colliery was closed in 1973 the Dutch Government and provincial administration could congratulate themselves on an apparently painless conversion of Limburg's economy from a coal mining base to a modern and varied industrial structure.

Since then, however, the oil crisis and the recession have exposed weaknesses that show that Limburg still has some way to go before it can claim parity with the most advanced industrial regions in the Netherlands.

Unemployment in Limburg is now running at about 8.5 per cent compared with a national average of 5 to 5.5 per cent. Only the north-eastern province of Drenthe has a higher jobless rate.

Wearing Limburg off its coal mining base was no easy task. World War, the coal mines were the direct employers of 50,000 men. Supporting industries employing many thousands more.

When, in 1965, it was finally decided to close the pits over the following eight years, there were still 45,000 men in the Limburg mines. By way of contrast, the working population today numbers around 240,000, of whom 100,000 are in industry.

Government assistance in the form of tax allowances and investment incentives attracted around 100 companies to the area, creating around 20,000 new jobs.

Much of the industrial and commercial settlement has been on a relatively small scale, the establishment of a large car plant at Born by the DAF group—now a part of the Volvo concern—proving the exception rather than the rule.

The restructuring of industry created problems, many of them from abroad, often embarked on a process of backward integration, setting up first sales outlets and waiting before establishing assembly and manufacturing plants.

Mr Peter Nutting and Mr John Williams have been made directors of Bentley Securities. Mr Nutting becomes chairman of both companies.

Mr Stanley Lyon, a deputy chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, is to retire from the board on March 31.

Mr Peter Raymond-Smith has joined the board of Consolidated Safeguards.

Mr Joan Gaweck and Mr Michael Sturt have become non-executive directors of Gee Bassett Holdings.

Mr E. R. Basset and Mr D. S. Middleitch have joined the board of United British Securities Trust. Brooke Bond Liebig and Gill & Duffus Group have completed the arrangements to merge their Lloyd's broking subsidiaries, Peak & Partners and B. Leonard Puckle & Co. into a single company to be known as Peak Puckle. The board of directors will be as follows: Mr M. D. Martin (chairman); Mr D. M. Berland (managing); Mr J. McGowan (managing); Mr J. S. Carrick; Mr J. A. Hunt; Mr T. W. Ingles; Mr D. R. Mitchell; and Mr T. C. M. O'Donovan.

Regional industry in Europe

Such structures proved to be particularly weak in times of recession.

The Limburg Development Bank, LIOF, maintains that there have been few outward failures of newly settled companies during the recession. But undoubtedly many companies in Limburg owe their continued existence to support from either the Government or their bankers.

The recession has also cast a cloud over the outlook for future industrial expansion and diversification.

But the present economic condition of Limburg and its general outlook would be far gloomier were it not for the known Dutch State Mines. DSM dates back to 1902, when the Netherlands government set up a limited company, Staatsmijnen, in Limburg, to mine for coal in cooperation with the private foreign-owned mining companies which had first opened up the Limburg field.

Fortunately, as it turned out, the company diversified in the 1930s into coke and coal gas production, coal-based chemicals and building materials.

When, by the 1960s, the future of coal was beginning to look uncertain, DSM was already switching its chemical activities to an oil base. Since then the group has expanded rapidly. Group sales last year were around 9,500 million guilders (nearly £2,300m) or 10 times the level in 1966.

Today, about half of DSM's annual turnover comes from chemicals. It employs 32,000 people worldwide, with about half in Limburg.

But chemicals are capital intensive rather than labour intensive. Although DSM is still Limburg's largest employer, it has expanded its overall workforce appreciably from a low of around 20,000 in 1970, it can never assume the overriding importance as a provider of jobs that it had in the coal era.

The Limburg economy will therefore continue to need support.

Peter Norman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An example of successful trade union representation in the boardroom

From Sir Iain Stewart

Sir, As one of the few chairmen in the private sector of United Kingdom industry (via the Fairfields national proving ground experiment 1966-68), who has had practical experience of working with trade union directors and one form of the two-tier board system, I believe that the representation of trade unions should be encouraged. May I add some comments to the current debate.

Since apprenticeship days on Clydeside in the 1930s the inevitable need for industrial democracy has been obvious, and I continually regret that employers generally have been so slow to take the initiative in promoting it. Their weak retreat in the face of militancy during the recession, and political intervention through legislation such as *In Place of Strife* and the Industrial Relations Act, have simply created more and more strength in the trade unions which have abused and others would wish to put to better use if provided with an appropriate platform.

The new policy board, which took over the bankrupt Fairfield Shipyard, introduced trade union representation (two directors) which was supported by investment, while the executive board, which was responsible for implementing policy, invited three trade union convenors to attend as observers. The tripartite capital structure contained 50 per cent Government, 35 per cent private enterprise and 15 per cent trade union.

To escape from the current environment of inflation, stagnant productivity, low return on capital, price controls and other statutory restrictions, it is now vital to stimulate new initiatives in all spheres of commerce, as it also is to train those who will require to apply their minds to the many ramifications.

Reliable two-way communications, trade union participation in the boardroom, combined with investment, plus trade union involvement with executive management without responsibility for management decisions, were key factors in the administrative structure and had begun to stimulate new initiatives combined with an effective unity of economic purpose.

To escape from the current environment of inflation, stagnant productivity, low return on capital, price controls and other statutory restrictions, it is now vital to stimulate new initiatives in all spheres of commerce, as it also is to train those who will require to apply their minds to the many ramifications.

Middle-range professionals deserve a better reward

From Mr Paul Nicolson

Sir, About one quarter of the workforce earns £4,000 a year or more. A very substantial proportion of these earn between £4,000 and £10,000. They are the skilled, professional and managerial workers who deal with government and boards of directors on one side and all other employees on the other. On these middle ranks depend the success or failure of government policy or company initiatives.

The complexities of keeping an enterprise moving, or even standing still, amid a mass of new or ever-changing legislation, severe economic crises and "voluntary" pay policies fall on their shoulders and time to their unpaid spare time. They are accountable for the success or failure of an enterprise, be it a school or a hospital; the generation of profit; thereby the protection and creation of jobs; and on them rests a significant responsibility for reducing unemployment.

Their pay and their goals have hitherto been the goals of able, ambitious and responsible workers. Very few would realistically expect to go higher. As a result of the activities of the two major political parties over the last 10 years, they are beginning to feel battle weary. The increased workload brought about by the political parties has been accompanied by decreased pay. Both the job and the pay are much less attractive than they were.

A major difficulty is that governments believe that the rich begin at around £4,000. £5,000 gross. Taxes on fringe benefits, increases in National Insurance contributions, the maximum pay increase of £4 per week, higher rates of income tax, all start to bite at around £5,000 per annum gross pay. Governments should update their fixation that the rich begin at £5,000 and dovetail new legislation about say, £10,000 gross earned income.

Yours faithfully, PAUL NICOLSON, General Secretary, Confederation of Employee Organisations, 39, High Street, Walsingham, Norfolk, NR21 1AB.

der present or represented in the sale room.

In the case to which your comment was directed, the piece of furniture could well have reached the maximum figure contained in the instructions; with regard to the pictures, and the suggested "mix-up" with the numbering, the person who gave the instructions to purchase should have made it clear that his instructions were explicit, and that they identified the items in question following careful examination in the course of a view prior to sale.

The auctioneer is, at the fall of the hammer, acting on behalf of the buyer and seller when he records the price at which the hammer falls and the name of the buyer. His acting at this point with due authority on behalf of both parties, does not give rise to any conflict of interest, which might otherwise present itself.

Dear Sir, Yours faithfully, MICHAEL ASTBURY, Secretary, The Incorporated Society of Auctioneers and Estate Agents, 3, Colindale Avenue, London, NW1 1JF, February 25.

From Mr Anthony Jacobs

Sir, Sir Joseph Latham on January 19 supported by Mr Roberts on February 3, urges the Government to be more generous in its tax treatment under Schedule E for employees resident in the United Kingdom who spend a great deal of their time travelling abroad on business. Now, Mr Newman (February 18) seeks similar favourable treatment for taxpayers under Schedule D. Among the reasons given are the inconceivable statements that travelling abroad to increase exports is essential to the British economy and, furthermore, that such work is extremely onerous and that numerous visits abroad may disturb family life.

There should we not consider whether, for example, a salesman spending a great deal of time away from home and working in the United Kingdom does any suffer also the same disabilities, and can it not be claimed, equally, that a miner's work on night shift is both essential to the economy, extremely onerous and disruptive of family life?

There seems, therefore, to be absolutely no case whatsoever for especially favourable tax treatment for people travelling overseas on business to increase either exports or imports. Surely those on impor-

tant and arduous work overseas are entitled to higher remuneration, and this is no different from the just argument that miners, because of the arduous nature of their work, should receive more than the average industrial wage.

The root cause of the need for special tax treatment lies in the exorbitant rates of income tax charged at both ends of the earnings scale. To charge 83 per cent of a person's salary on the upper income bracket is, of course, punitive, but not more so than to charge 41 per cent income tax and national insurance on every pound of income of a single person earning more than £14 a week, and a married person earning more than £21 a week.

There are far too many arguments for special tax relief, whether on mortgage interest, bank interest, overseas earnings, car allowances, life insurance, etc. which are all required to offset the excessive proportion of government revenue which is obtained from personal direct taxes as opposed to indirect and social security taxes.

Yours sincerely, ANTHONY JACOBS, Liberal Economic Panel, 20 York Terrace West, London, NW1 4QA, February 25.

From Mr F. Paterson

Sir, I sympathise with Mr Barclay (March 2) that the order books for wagon builders in this country are low, but it is really naughty of him to attribute this lack of willingness on British Rail's part to offer the right financial inducements.

Even in the last three economically depressed years, we have convinced some of the leading industrialists in the United Kingdom to continue investing in new wagons to the extent that the privately owned wagon fleet has increased by 10 per cent since 1973. A greater growth is confidently expected in the next three years.

The availability of government grants for the capital element will certainly help but the keen haulage market in this country is an individual contract basis, I believe, the key element.

A good example of British Rail's market orientation is the development of aggregate movements from the Mendips to London and the South-East. A steadily increasing fleet of privately owned wagons, which have been significant factors in the creation of this new and potentially very substantial business.

Yours faithfully, FRANK PATTERSON, Chief Freight Manager, British Railways Board, 222 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 6JJ, March 4.

Stimulating railway wagon orders

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Comecon to push sales at Leipzig Trade Fair

Leipzig, March 13.—Businessmen from 15 countries are today attending the opening of the traditional Leipzig Spring Fair, held this year in the shadow of heavy eastern European debts to the West and rising raw materials costs from the Soviet Union.

Squeezed financially on both sides, East Germany and its fellow members of the Comecon trading group are expected to push hard to boost exports to the West, while tightening up on imports from outside their own community.

Some 9,000 exhibitors—slightly fewer than half of them from the host country—have set up stands for the week-long fair. This figure has held steady for several years at the traditional market place for East-West trade.

West Germany, by far the East Germans' most important western trading partner, as usual has the largest foreign representation, with the Soviet Union dominating exhibits from Europe.

Western economic experts here foresee no dramatic deals from the fair, although they suspect the East Germans may try in direct expansion in western trade away from West Germany.

With debts to the West now estimated to be running at some DM15,000m (about £3,100m), and faced with a twofold rise in Soviet oil prices over the past two years, East Germans are beginning to show signs of alarm. Unplanned rises in import prices last year brought a 14 per cent increase in foreign trade turnover against a planned 9.7 per cent.

Britain, which traditionally devotes considerable attention to the Leipzig Fair, is hoping this year to put substance into hopes for a rapid expansion in trade expressed last month during a visit to East Berlin by Mr Dill, Secretary of State for Trade.—Reuter.

830 fewer UK petrol stations

By Roger Vielvoye

The rapid decline in the number of petrol filling stations closing down. At the end of the year there were 30,546 retailing sites in business, according to the annual survey by the magazine *Petroleum Review*.

While the number of sites declined, the change over to self-service accelerated. Nearly 3,790 sites are now self-service—12.4 per cent of the total. The magazine says these sites have a much higher turnover than conventional stations.

There seems, therefore, to be absolutely no case whatsoever for especially favourable tax treatment for people travelling overseas on business to increase either exports or imports. Surely those on impor-

tant and arduous work overseas are entitled to higher remuneration, and this is no different from the just argument that miners, because of the arduous nature of their work, should receive more than the average industrial wage.

The root cause of the need for special tax treatment lies in the exorbitant rates of income tax charged at both ends of the earnings scale. To charge 83 per cent of a person's salary on the upper income bracket is, of course, punitive, but not more so than to charge 41 per cent income tax and national insurance on every pound of income of a single person earning more than £14 a week, and a married person earning more than £21 a week.

There are far too many arguments for special tax relief, whether on mortgage interest, bank interest, overseas earnings, car allowances, life insurance, etc. which are all required to offset the excessive proportion of government revenue which is obtained from personal direct taxes as opposed to indirect and social security taxes.

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The Bank that covers the World

Banque Nationale de Paris has an international network extending over sixty countries in the five continents of the world.

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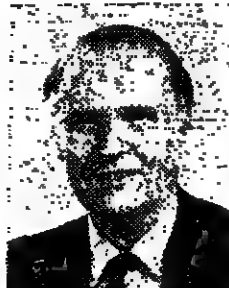
UK Subsidiary

Banque Nationale de Paris Limited

Plantation House,
10-15 Mincing Lane,
London EC3P 3ER
Tel: 626 5678
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هكزامن الأول

The Wagon Finance Corporation Limited



S. M. de BARTOLOME
Chairman

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 1976 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The audited results for the Group for the year ended 31st December, 1976 compared with the previous year are as follows:

	1976 £	1975 £
Turnover	£7,977,518	£7,684,991
Consolidated profit before taxation	1,637,923	1,438,305
Taxation	831,590	728,394
Consolidated profit after taxation	806,333	709,911
Dividend		
Proposed final: 15% (1975: 12%)	370,313	294,600
Retained profit for the year	£436,020	£415,311

EXTRACTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

Second highest profits—dividend increased

I am pleased to report a consolidated profit before taxation of £1,637,923 for 1976. Despite the substantial adverse impact of increased money costs in the latter part of 1976 this is an increase of £200,000 over 1975 and is the second highest pre-tax profit ever achieved by the Group.

The consolidated profit after taxation amounts to £806,333, equivalent to earnings of 8.16p per share, compared with 7.23p for 1975. Your directors recommend a dividend of 3.75p per share (15% net, compared with 3p (12%) for 1975: with the related tax credit this is equivalent to 5.77p (23.08%) gross. Treasury permission has been obtained for this recommendation, which strikes a fair balance between our wish to reward shareholders appropriately and the need, particularly at a time of inflation, to add to reserves. Furthermore, your directors will give consideration to the payment of an interim dividend in the coming year.

New business financed, all of which is now underwritten by Bank of Europe Limited, increased by 19% in 1976 compared with 1975. Our portfolio, which because of adverse conditions outside our control had declined without a break from December 1973 to March 1976, recovered by the end of 1976 to almost the March 1975 level. Correspondingly, unearned finance charges of £533,794 at the end of 1976 had increased by £777,484 on the year.

Funding arrangements

Last October, as I reported to you at the time, we concluded arrangements with our bankers for facilities aggregating £30,000,000 of which a substantial part is on a medium-term basis. We are therefore in a strong position to take advantage of an eventual resurgence in the demand for consumer credit.

Future prospects

Looking to 1977, we shall strive to increase the amount of new business financed without lowering our standards for the acceptance of such business. However, the greater part of any such increase will merely reflect inflation until the national economy resumes real growth—and for that we shall clearly have to wait beyond the current year. Our profit will, as usual, be affected by the movement in interest rates and, in this regard at least, the outlook now appears just a little brighter.

Copies of the Annual Report available from:
The Secretary, The Wagon Finance Corporation Limited,
3, Endcliffe Crescent, Sheffield, S10 3EE.

MANAGEMENT

A salesman who failed to achieve his targets

When an employer dismisses someone, he must be fair within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 and for most cases there are two main rules for him to follow.

First, the reason for dismissal must be fair. It must be one of the five set out in the legislation, which are: capability, conduct, redundancy, contravention of a legal duty or restriction or some other substantial cause.

Second, the decision to dismiss and the manner in which it is carried out must be reasonable. For example, is the punishment fitting, or are there extenuating circumstances? Does management investigate all aspects of the case properly? Are explanations sought? Are

formal warnings and opportunities to improve given before dismissal occurs?

A dismissal is automatically unfair if an employer shows no reason for it. Also, it is automatically unfair if the main reason is that the employee is a member of an independent trade union, takes part in union activities, refuses to join a non-independent trade union or has a genuine religious objection to belonging to a closed shop.

Today we publish the first in a series of case studies in which circumstances leading to dismissals are described. Though the cases are fictitious, they are derived from conditions which have arisen in actual cases. The author adds his own assessment of each case.

Dismissal and the Law by Geoff Smith

Michael Portnoy was a salesman in the employment of the Sun Ethical Drugs Company. His sales territory was North Essex. His duties were to sell the company's branded drugs directly to pharmacists and to promote them through visits to general practitioners in his area.

He began employment with the firm at the age of 27, on August 1, 1974, after previous selling experience with a competitive drugs company. After attending a product training course for one month, he was assigned to the staff of the East Anglia regional sales manager and was given the North Essex territory. The previous salesman on this patch had left the company on July 1 and in the meantime it had been looked after, part-time, by a salesman from an adjacent area.

Each salesman in the company was given a monthly sales target. Portnoy made a very good start and reached his target in the first month of employment after being 10 per cent below in September and October. From then on until December, 1975, performance was good. In all months the target was reached and on seven occasions, exceeded, sometimes by as much as 20 per cent.

During the first six months

of 1976, however, performance deteriorated. In January and February his sales were 10 per cent below target. In March performance improved a little and he ended the month only 5 per cent down. In April he was 15 per cent, in May 5 per cent and in June 10 per cent below the target level.

(For the first year of employment, up to July 31, 1975, the monthly sales targets were held constant. From August, 1975, the monthly sales targets were increased by 5 per cent and they remained at that level until June 30, 1976.)

At the end of February, 1976, he was given an oral warning by the regional sales manager that "his performance had to improve or else serious disciplinary action would be taken". At the end of April he was given a formal written warning, again by the regional sales manager, and countersigned by the company sales manager. The

warning was that "unless he demonstrated his ability to produce the expected level of results during the next two months then he would be dismissed from his job".

On June 30, 1976, he was informed that his employment was to be terminated. He was given one month's salary in lieu of the notice to which he was entitled under his contract of employment.

Portnoy asked for a written statement of the reasons for his dismissal, to which he was entitled under a provision of the Employment Protection Act 1975. The statement was: "You have been dismissed because you lack the ability to produce the expected level of results. This has been demonstrated by a failure to achieve monthly sales targets in the period January to June, 1976."

Portnoy completed the appropriate form complaining of unfair dismissal and sent it to the central office of the Industrial Tribunals on July 7, 1976. He did not want the services of a conciliation officer from the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service to attempt an out-of-court settlement.

Would the tribunal have found fair or unfair dismissal in this case?

In the case of Portnoy it appears that he was not given an opportunity to explain his side of things nor was he given help by way of training, guidance, or counselling. There was no opportunity to appeal to a level of management not involved.

It is hoped to publish the second article in this series on March 21.

The Code of Industrial Relations Practice, published in 1972 by the Stationery Office and still in force, could also be relevant. The code is not mandatory, but it may be regarded as admissible evidence at tribunal hearings. A breach of the code can be a factor in making a dismissal unfair.

The code gives guidance on how an employer should deal with an employee whose performance is inadequate. Before dismissal the employers should have:

—stated clearly the level of performance required;

—given a written warning of possible dismissal, mentioning specific shortcomings;

—provided an opportunity to the employee to explain his or her view of the problem;

—given some training, guidance or counselling leading to a chance to improve;

—provided an opportunity if possible for the employee to appeal to a level of management not involved.

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Growing importance of knowing a staff's strength

One of the main personnel problems which many companies, and particularly larger ones, face is simply that of getting to know their staff.

Too often all a company knows of a person is what his present or previous jobs have permitted him to reveal. But it may quite often be the case that an individual has abilities which he has not had the opportunity, or perhaps the stimulus, to reveal.

To the extent that that is true, managers are acting on the basis of incomplete information when deciding whether to promote an individual, or which job to move him to.

To some extent, this problem of the submerged element in employees may be dealt with in well-managed companies through formal appraisals by the individual's immediate superior. But the effectiveness of such systems will depend very much on whether the appraising manager really takes the trouble, and has the ability, to see his staff in the round, or whether he merely sees them within the limits set by their jobs.

One consequence of a failure to see an individual in the round may be the waste of ability. But more pervasively damaging is the possibility of people being moved into unsuitable jobs.

This danger is particularly acute with promotions, for each promotion must take an individual to some extent into unknown waters, for which previous experience will provide only an uncertain aid to navigation.

The hazards involved in a bad appointment or promotion are much more severe today than in the past. This is because in an era in which management has to rely much more on content and can make much less use of the *diktat*, mistakes are not easily remedied.

Secondly, such a climate, when mixed with a whole range of other factors, has made management so much more difficult and demanding today that promotions based on anything less than a fairly full perception of the whole individual may amount to reckless speculation.

Under the influence of at least some of these considerations British Petroleum's London office and BP Oil (the United Kingdom trading company of British Petroleum) has this year introduced a new

element into its procedures for ensuring that it knows its staff. It has long relied on annual appraisals by its line managers, and will continue to do so. But for one category of employees this will now be supported by the introduction of Residential Assessment Boards.

These boards are for employees who are probably in their late thirties or early thirties and who are thought to have some reasonable potential for promotion as managers.

It is intended to hold six assessment boards a year, each board being attended by 12 people and lasting three days. The participants do both written tests and group projects, with a strong emphasis in both cases on dealing with simulated business situations. Also, there is a long free-ranging interview, and each participant is asked to give a talk.

Those taking part are assessed by a panel of three general managers who have been brought in from their normal duties of running BP's business activities. Great care is taken to ensure that the assessors have not previously been acquainted with the participants.

At the end of the board, the assessors spend two days preparing reports on those who have taken part. Each report is shown to the report on himself and the report is also sent to his general manager and to the personnel staff.

The essence of the thing appears to be that the participants, through the process of carrying out tests and exercises in the company of people with whom they were not previously acquainted, will be stimulated into a response which makes a more realistic assessment possible.

BP says firmly that this is quite different from the country house selection techniques which some large companies used a decade or more ago, and which often seemed as much a test of social fluency as anything else.

The fact of being on a residential assessment course must clearly put the participants under some degree of stress, but BP is emphatic that there is no deliberate creation of stress.

Mr Nigel Ventham, manager of staff development in BP's central personnel department, defines the hoped-for benefits of the assessment boards as being to maximize the usage of people's abilities rather than merely to assess their "promotability". He thinks that they will help to improve both the individual's own career planning, and the company's planning of its management succession.

River and Mercantile Trust Limited

Salient points from Report and Accounts to 31st December, 1976

	1976	1975
Gross Revenue	£1,797,787	£1,667,674
Earnings per share (net)	7.83p	7.13p
Dividend per share (net)	7.00p	6.25p
Valuation of Investments	£21,012,939	£23,863,198
Net Asset Value	167.92p	178p

The Company, whose portfolio is largely invested in U.K. equities, is aware of the greater need for income felt by many investors and continues to aim at a consistent and rising trend of revenue.

Frank Vogl

Another high-flyer from Georgia

Mr Robert Oppenlander, the chief financial officer of Delta Airlines, is quite emphatic when he declares that the company is "the most profitable" American commercial airline.

Delta has enjoyed 29 consecutive profitable years and has just announced that net income after taxes in the calendar year 1976 rose by 88 per cent to \$79.5m.

The company's record is remarkable, especially at a time when the combination of a national recession, vastly increased fuel expenses and rising costs of new equipment have raised serious questions about the viability of many big American airlines.

The secret of Delta's success clearly lies in its all-round managerial skills. The company seems to pay more attention to details and long-term planning than many of its rivals.

More important, it has long recognized that success can be produced only by paying equal attention to all aspects of its operations, rather than simply concentrating on one or two areas, as so many other airlines constantly appear to do.

A number of American airlines have suffered from strikes, while many of those that have avoided them have shared in a pool whereby they provide heavy compensation to those of their pilots who have suffered from industrial disputes. Delta, Mr Oppenlander says, is one of the few airlines that does not participate in this pool arrangement. It does not do so because "we have no risk of a strike".

Only Delta's pilots are members of a trade union and the company has found that it can keep the unions out by regularly consulting with its 28,000 employees, by often paying them more than rival airlines and by designing arrangements that tend to give them rather greater employment security than most of their competitors.

Delta is not hampered by a dated fleet of aircraft, as are some big American commercial airlines. It has readily modernized its fleet.

Four years ago it operated 11 different types of aircraft, including both Douglas DC-10s and Lockheed L-1011s. Today the fleet is down to almost four basic types of aircraft, the average age of the fleet is five years, compared with an average of about ten years in much of the rest of the industry, and plans are well advanced for further big improvements.

The company has spent more than \$1,000m on fleet modernization since 1972, Mr Oppenlander says, and it is paying

off its bank debt faster than it originally expected.

Delta internally generates some \$300m a year through depreciation (about \$165m), deferred taxes (about \$25m to \$30m), profit (about \$80m) and from equipment sales.

The company sees its cash needs running at \$150m to \$200m in the next four to five years. This will leave it with a healthy surplus each year to repay its bank debt.

It appears to have been more aware early on than many of its rivals about the prospect of mounting fuel costs. Part of its profitability is the result of making fleet improvements and changes to route schedules that have yielded a 31 per cent increase in revenue-passenger-miles per gallon of fuel used.

Free of many of the immediate problems that face its rivals the airline seems to have more time to plan carefully for expansion. An important aim for a direct route from Atlanta, Georgia, Delta's home town, to London. The Civil Aeronautics Board advocated this, but former President Ford rejected the idea.

Mr R. S. Maurer, Delta's general counsel and secretary, believes that there is already the traffic potential to ensure profits from the two daily flights from Atlanta to London.

One flight by Delta and the other possibly by British Caledonian. He hopes that a full trans-Atlantic route agreement between the British and the Americans can be reached by the summer and he suggests that if this is not possible there may well be an interim agreement.

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NOTICE OF REDEMPTION To the Holders of Queensland Alumina Finance N.V.

9% Collateral Trust Bonds Due 1982

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the provisions of the Queensland Alumina Finance N.V. Collateral Trust Indenture dated as of April 1, 1970, U.S. \$1,000,000, principal amount of the above described Bonds have been selected for redemption on April 1, 1977, in lieu of a redemption for the purpose of the Sinking Fund, at the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to said date, as follows:

BONDS OF U.S. \$1,000 EACH																
36-79	1186	3237	3088	3030	8254	7712	8154	10435	11567	12463	13232	14880	18620	16894	17735	16066
44	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
52	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
60	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
68	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
76	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
84	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
92	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
100	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
108	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
116	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
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164	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
172	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
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204	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
212	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
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372	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
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564	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
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580	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
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612	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
620	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
628	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
636	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
644	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
652	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
660	1336	2281	2731	3187	3282	3778	4181	4603	5025	5447	5869	6291	6713	7135	7557	7979
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